FLOWER COMICS

風と木の詩

竹宮恵子

風と木の詩
16
竹宮恵子

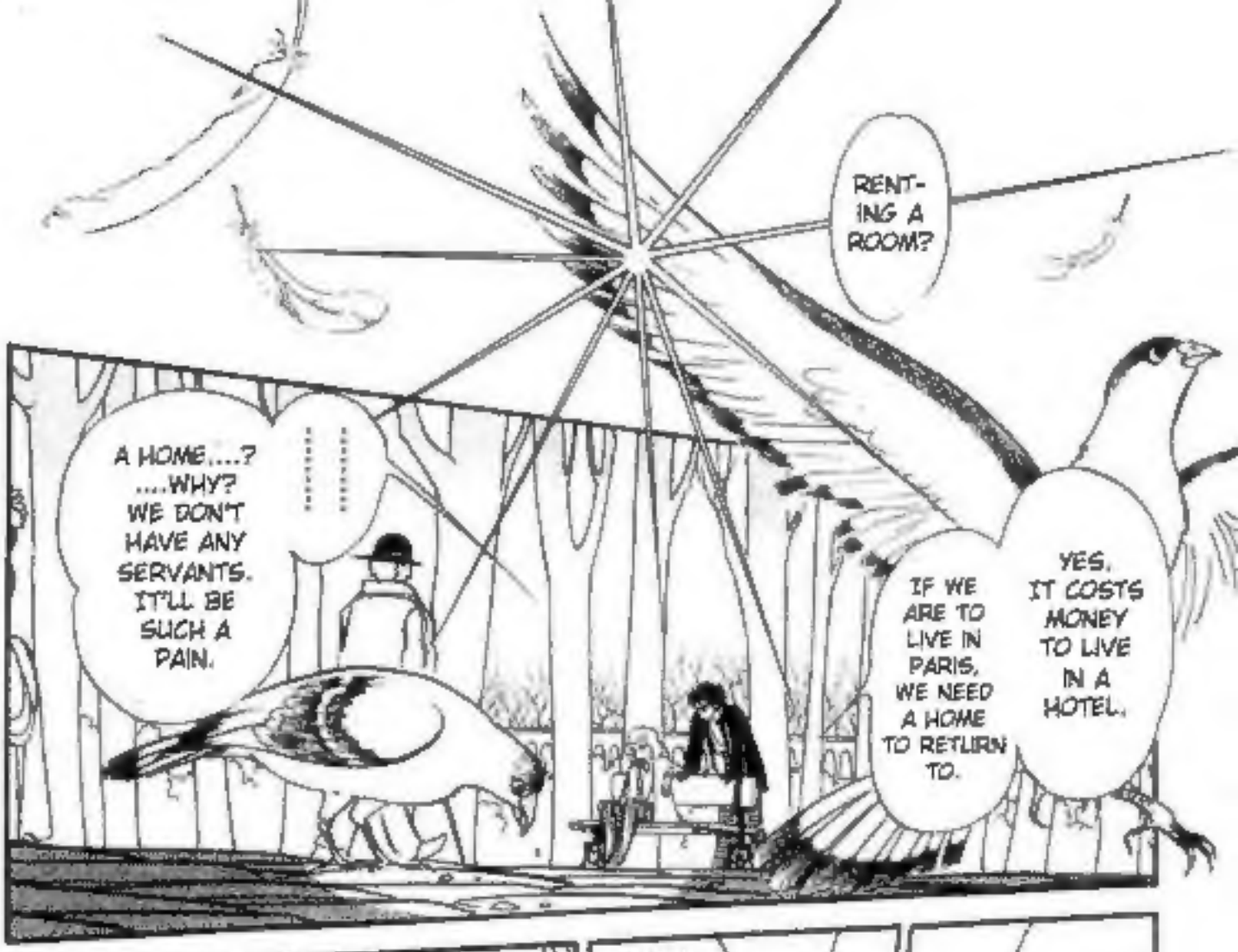
HOTEL
... THE RAIN IS LETTING UP
... SERGE!
.... YEAH

...YOU'RE QUITE QUIET ...
LET'S GO OUTSIDE. THE LUXEMBOURG GARDENS ARE RIGHT OVER THERE.
...YEAH
...THIS IS A NICE HOTEL. DO YOU LIKE IT?
OK ...
WITH ALIGU ...
I REMEMBER, WHEN I WOULD BE IN PARIS.
I WOULD STAY HERE SOMETIMES.
...THIS IS THE FIFTH PLACE ALREADY
...I LIKED THE CHANGE IN THE MOOD.

IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE WE'VE ARRIVED IN PARIS.
I KNOW WE NEED TO STOP LIVING IN HOTELS ....BUT
I DON'T WANT TO GO LOOKING FOR A JOB.
REAL LIFE REALLY IS SCARY.
...HOW PATHETIC WE ARE
LET'S DEFINITELY GO OUT TODAY!
WHAT'S WITH YOU...?
I'M HEADING OUT!
HEY, I WANT TO EAT AT A RESTAURANT TONIGHT.
NOT JUST A BISTRO .... A REAL ONE.
... HUH?

LOOK, SERGE!
THE TREES ARE STARTING TO BUD AL-READY.
ARE THOSE ... MAR-RON-NIER?
IT'S STILL COLD, BUT... IT REALLY IS GET-TING CLOSE TO SPRING.
... WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'VE BEEN QUIET FOR A WHILE
.....
BUT WE ARE ATTRACTING ATTENTION.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THESE PEOPLE ARE AFTER US

DON'T YOU A-GREE?
HAHH, I'D TRULY
LIKE TO EAT SOME-THING DELICIOUS. I'M TIRED OF THE HOTEL FOOD.
...GILBERT IS THE REASON EVERYONE IS LOOKING AT US.
HE STANDS OUT WHERE-EVER WE GO.
...HEY, AREN'T YOU A CUTIE?
YOU SKIPPING CLASSES? HOW ABOUT WE TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE NICE WHERE WE CAN PLAY?
...HMM? WHERE ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...ARE YOU SERI-OUS!?
EVEN IF WE WEREN'T IN A HURRY, I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE! NOT WITH THEM!


RENT-ING A ROOM?
A HOME....? ....WHY? WE DON'T HAVE ANY SERVANTS. IT'LL BE SUCH A PAIN.
IF WE ARE TO LIVE IN PARIS, WE NEED A HOME TO RETURN TO.
YES. IT COSTS MONEY TO LIVE IN A HOTEL.

YOU'RE SAYING WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE OUR OWN MEALS?
I'M NOT KIDDING AROUND, THIS IS AWFUL!
THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS LIKE!
NOT JUST THAT! WE'LL ALSO HAVE TO MAKE OUR BEDS, CLEAN, AND DO EVERY-THING ON OUR OWN.

EATING WILL BE SO TROUBLE-SOME. WE'LL HAVE TO GO OUT JUST TO EAT BREAK-FAST.
BUT ...
WE WOULD BE THE SERVANTS.

GIL-BERT ...

...WHAT DID HE SAY?
HA! THIS IS WORSE THAN BEING AT SCHOOL, THEN.
WE NEED TO AT LEAST FIND A ONE-ROOM PLACE TO RENT. SINCE WE HAVEN'T FOUND A JOB YET!
WHY DOES HE THINK WE LEFT SCHOOL TO COME HERE!?
.....I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT REAL LIFE.
FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS... NO, JUST ONE NIGHT WOULD BE FINE.
...I WANT TO LIVE IN A DREAM ...

I'LL GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME FLOWERS, MADAM?
OH REALLY? HOW MUCH?
WH
QUIT MESSING AROUND!
GILBERT!
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA
A HA HA HA HA HA HA

... WHERE ARE WE GOING?
... TO THE LOWER QUARTER.
WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LIVE ANYWHERE ELSE,
IF WE WANT TO KEEP OUR IDENTITIES SECRET
... IT'S SO DIRTY.

rooms for rent
... NEW-COMERS, HUH? HEH HEH
THAT ONE'S QUITE PRETTY.
WITH THE BLONDE HAIR.

DO YOU NEED ANY HELP GETTING A JOB?
HEE HEE ...
BUT ...!
I UNDER-STAND THAT.
BUT COME BACK WHEN YOU GET A JOB, FIRST, YOUNG MAN.
I CAN PAY YOU IN AD-VANCE FOR THREE MONTHS.
IT'LL BE BETTER THAT WAY FOR ALL OF US!
GIL-BERT!
GILBERT ...WHERE ARE YOU!?
GILBERT?

THEY KISSED ME.
.....
HEY ...!
YOU'RE TOO LATE, IDIOT ...!
...LET'S GO BACK
OF COURSE.
LOOK AT THOSE TWO.
A BIT OUT OF PLACE, THEY ARE ...
THEY'LL COME BACK.
...I'M SURE THEY'LL END UP MOVING IN HERE.
HMM? YOU SAY THAT SO CONFIDENTLY, CAMILLE.
IS THAT YOUR MOTHER'S GYPSY FORTUNE-TELLING TALKING?
DON'T BE SO SILLY MADAM. IT'S MY SIXTH SENSE.
THE SKIN COLOR OF ONE OF THEM... HE'D FIT IN, HERE.

I'M... SURE OF IT.
THAT WAS FILTHY ..!
YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE INSANE. WE'LL GET SICK...!
THEN WHERE ARE WE GOING TO LIVE!?
GO LOOK FOR A PLACE YOUR-SELF!
I KNOW THAT MUCH! WHAT ARE YOU BEING SO HAUGHTY FOR!?
WE'D NEED AN ALLOWANCE FROM OUR PARENTS TO LIVE IN THE LATIN QUARTER.
AND THEY ONLY RENT ROOMS TO STUDENTS!
BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY AT ALL!
YOU WOULDN'T BE SAYING THESE THINGS IF YOU DID!

I'M HUNGRY
PLEASE STOP ...
I'M TIRED, SERGE...
....

...
YOUR HAND
...
SERGE
...I WANT TO HOLD YOUR HAND.
HEY
...
I'M TIRED.
...SO TIRED.
WEL-COME BACK.
HERE IS YOUR KEY.

LET'S GO TO A RES-TAU-RANT.
HEY ...?
STOP IT ALREADY, PLEASE!
WE HAVE TO SAVE WHAT LITTLE MONEY WE HAVE... EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T HAVE JOBS!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH IT COSTS JUST TO LIVE IN A HOTEL FOR A MONTH.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT!? WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DO THAT ANYMORE!

....BUT WON'T IT BE ALRIGHT JUST FOR TONIGHT...?
LET'S HAVE SOMETHING GOOD TO EAT TOGETHER.
THAT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER PROBA-BLY!
IDIOT!
IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, THEN WE SHOULD'VE NEVER LEFT SCHOOL!
I WOULD'VE TAKEN YOU BACK TO MARSEILLES SO YOU COULD CONTINUE YOUR LIFE OF LUXURY THERE!
I SHOULD GO BACK, RIGHT?
TO MAR-SEILLES
WE SHOULD JUST GO BA...
I'LL GO BACK
EVEN THOUGH WE CAME ALL THIS WAY TO PARIS .. IT'S BEEN NICE!
HAH ...!

ADIEU SERGE BAT-TOUR.
I WASN'T EXPEC-TING,
THAT WE WOULD PART WAYS SO SOON ...

NO!
NON
I WILL NOT LET YOU GO!!
I'M TRYING TO LEAVE...
... WILL YOU LET GO OF ME?
... YOU WERE THE ONE THAT TOLD ME TO GO!

WHY ARE YOU STOPPING ME?
...WHY!?
YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD.
PEOPLE CAN HEAR YOU NEXT DOOR ...!
WELL !?
YOU SAID I SHOULD GO BACK THERE!
YOU ...
SAID SO!
GIL-BERT!
I DON'T THINK... THAT'S WHAT YOU SHOULD DO AT ALL!
I COULD NEVER SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT ...
IT... HURT TO LEAVE SCHOOL AND COME HERE.
WHY WOULD I SAY TO GO BACK THERE ...!
... BUT YOU DID SAY IT, DIDN'T YOU?
VERY CLEAR-LY

LET GO OF ME.
... I'M LEAV-ING.

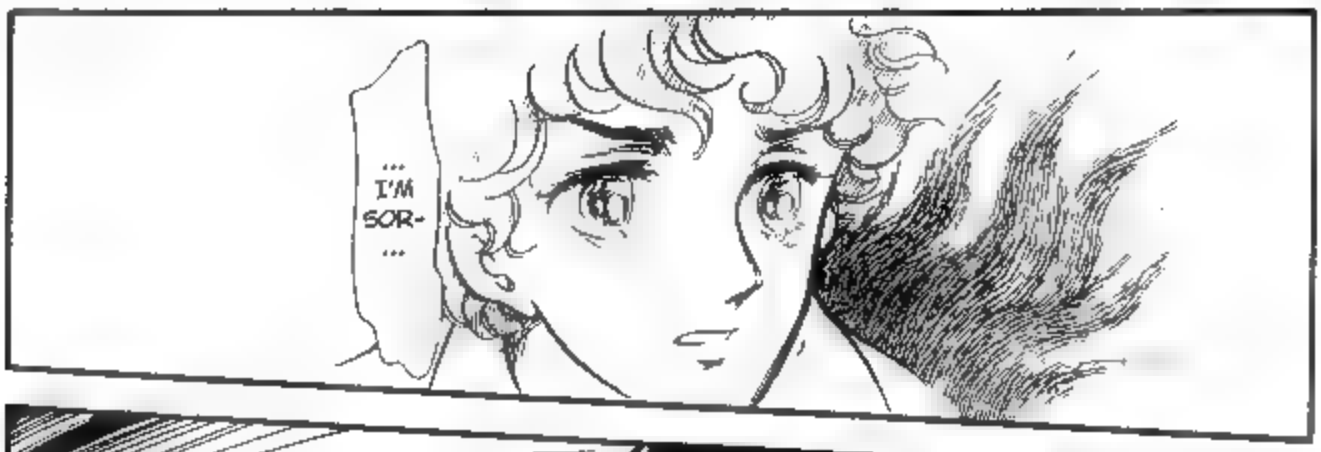
OW ...
AHH
UGH
ST ..
NO ...
...I THREW EVERY-THING AWAY TO COME HERE!
MY SCHOOL ...MY BELONG-INGS ...
MY FRIENDS!!
... WHY ...

AND THEN WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO? YOU'RE THE ONE IN THE WRONG
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO STOP ME, EITHER ..!
YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO HIT ME ..!
WHY ARE YOU HITTING ME...
THAT'S WHY I SUGGESTED WE GO TO A RESTAURANT TO UNWIND...
YOU WERE TIRED ... AND FRUST-RATED.
YOU COULDN'T DECIDE ON A ROOM IN THE END,
EVEN IF IT'S EXPENSIVE... IT'S BETTER THAN PASSING THE TIME IN... A BAD MOOD...
WHY IS THAT SO WRONG?
UGH
NNGH

WE DIDN'T COME HERE ...TO BE UPSET.
...IT'S NOT GOOD TO BE UPSET.
THAT'S EXACTLY IT
IT WAS BY MY OWN THOUGHTS
...I
UPSET MYSELF

GIL-BERT ...
.... LET'S GO ....
TO A REST-AU-RANT ...

AND NOT EVEN APOLO-GIZE AFTER ...!
YOU DON'T HIT PEOPLE
EVEN NOW YOU'RE STILL IN THE WRONG


... I'M SOR- ...

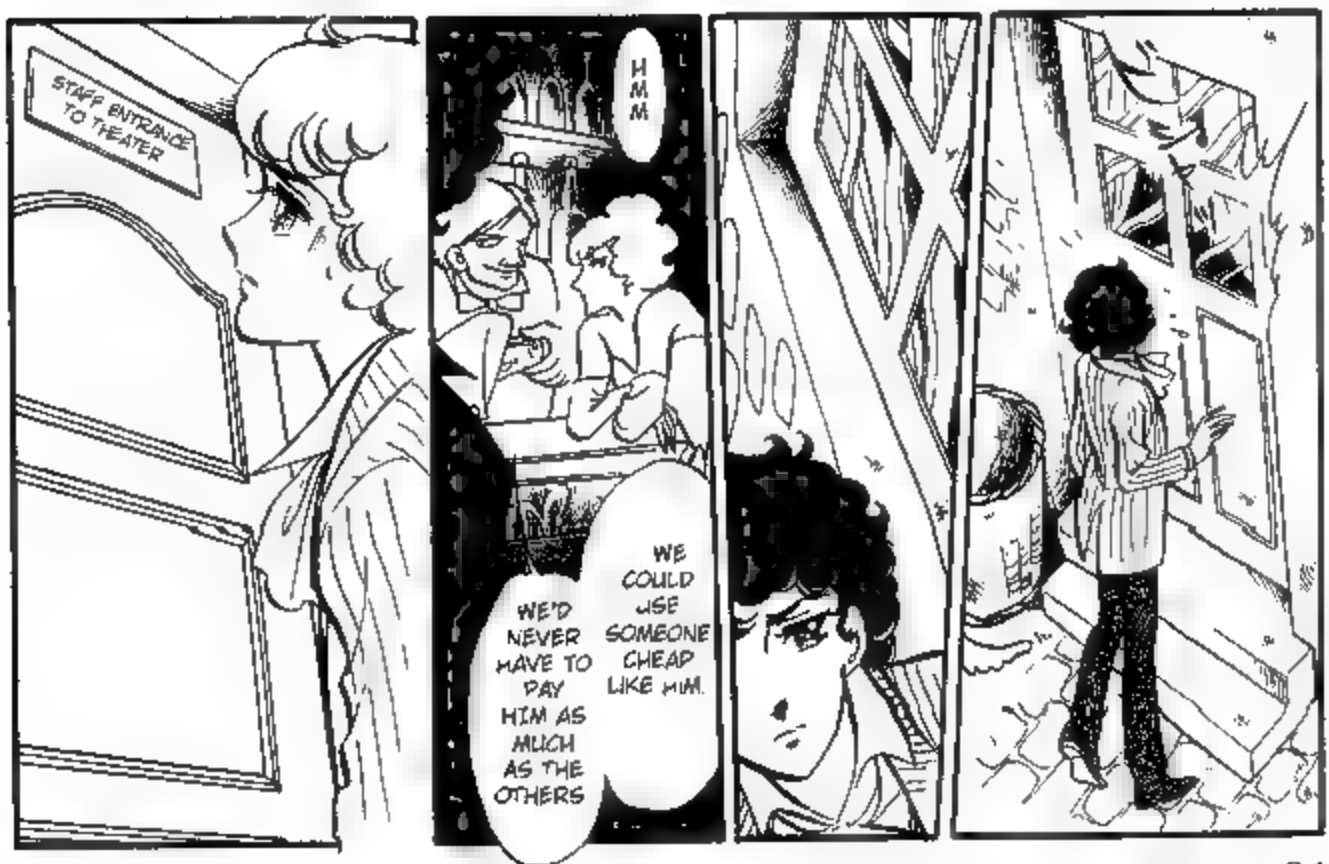
GIL-BE...
-RT ...

WHY ... ARE YOU CRY-ING?
SERGE IT'S FINE
WHAT ARE YOU CRY-ING FOR?
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US NOW. SO WHY AM I CRYING?
I... I DON'T KNOW.
NO... NON...
GILBERT ...
GILBERT
I DON'T KNOW .....

SERGE...
MY LOVE...
WHEN I HOLD HIM CLOSE TO MY CHEST
WHEN HE SPEAKS SOFTLY TO ME

...ALLOWS ME TO FORGET EVERY-THING...
THE FAST BEATING OF MY HEART THAT I'M ALWAYS FEELING
...IN THAT MOMENT
THAT'S WHY I CAN SEE HIM.
SO HE HAD SAID AND SOFTLY PLEDGED TO ME.
I AM HERE BECAUSE OF YOU.
AND YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE OF ME.
...YOUR WORDS OF LOVE MAKE ME SEE LIFE IN ROSY HUES
AS LONG AS HE COMPLETES ME.
I COULD FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING.
"LIFE IN ROSY HUES ..."
YES ...

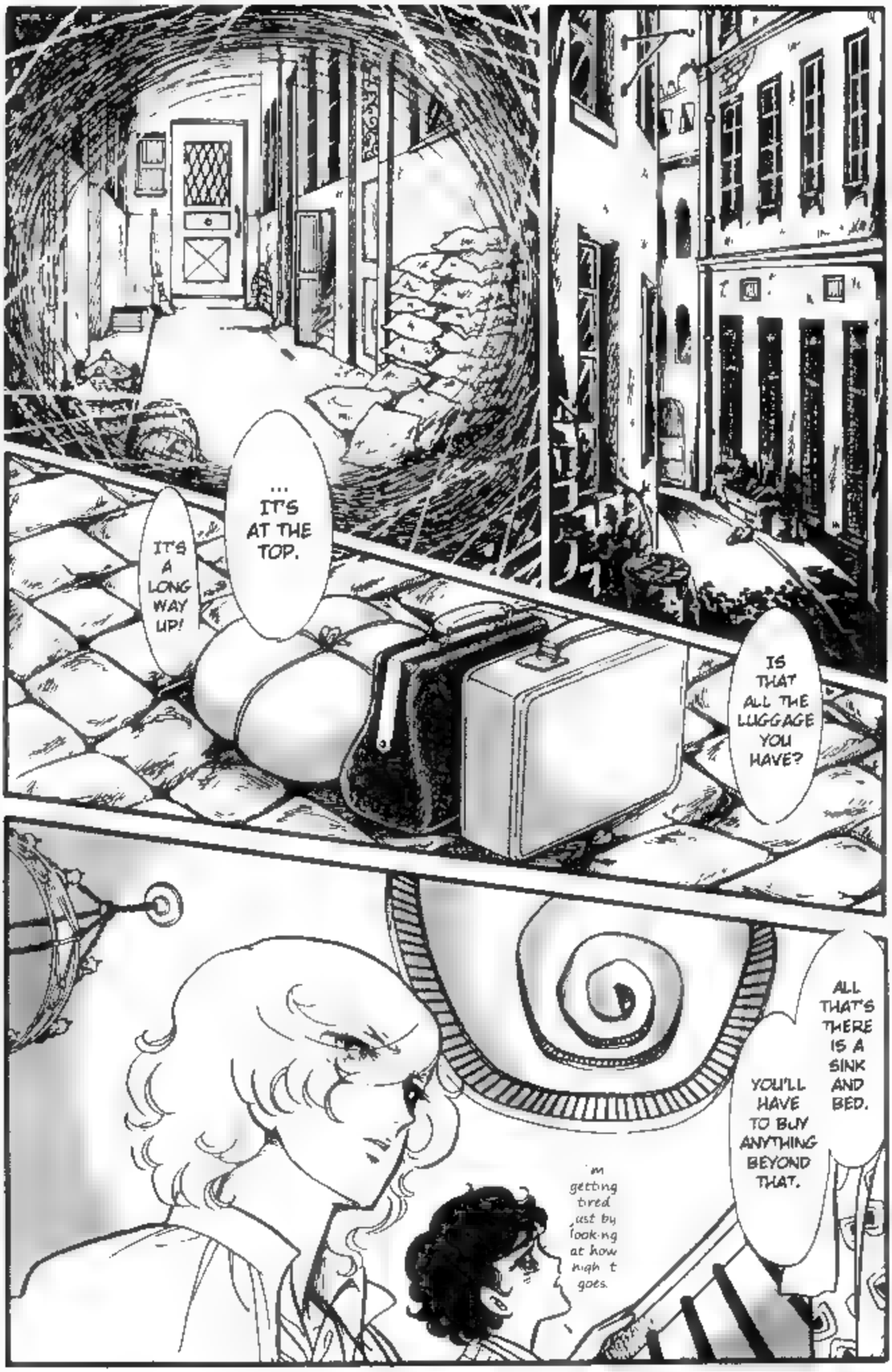
I'LL DO ANY-THING.
PLEASE.


STAFF ENTRANCE TO THEATER
HMM
WE'D NEVER HAVE TO PAY HIM AS MUCH AS THE OTHERS
WE COULD USE SOMEONE CHEAP LIKE HIM.

...
FATHER
...
HOW OLD ARE YA?
CAN NEVER BE TOO SURE WITH PEOPLE NOW-A-DAYS. EVEN IF THEY'RE YOUNG.
...17
WH... WHAT WAS THAT FOR ...?
COUGH
COUGH
GOOD!
SO, YA DON'T HAVE ANY BREA-THING PRO-BLEMS, EH?

...
EXCUSE ME. I CAME HERE EARLIER ABOUT THAT ROOM.
YOU GOT A JOB, NOW, HUH?
... OK, COME ON IN.

....
JUST
THAT
SO HE
HAD SAID
AND
SOFTLY
PLEDGED
TO ME.
LIFE
IN
ROSY
HUES
....
JUST
THAT
ALLOWS
ME TO
FORGET
EVERY-
THING...


IT'S A LONG WAY UP!
... IT'S AT THE TOP.
IS THAT ALL THE LUGGAGE YOU HAVE?
ALL THAT'S THERE IS A SINK AND BED.
YOU'LL HAVE TO BUY ANYTHING BEYOND THAT.
'm getting tired just by look·ng at how high t goes.

NEW RESI-DENTS, HUH?
THAT'S THEM? ....WHAT PRETTY CHILD-REN!
OHH ....
maybe they ran away after being bought here some where...
Kya ha ha ha ha ha ha!
SHUT UP!
OLD HAGS!!
Go outside if you wanna yap your brains out!
LIKE DOLLS, AREN'T THEY!?
WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY CAME FROM? DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'RE FROM AROUND HERE
LIKE A JEWEL IN THIS GAR-BAGE DUMP

How rude! I suppose a pretty face can't change a rotten heart
HERE IT IS.
OH... OK!
RENT IS PAID FOR UP-FRONT.
IT HAS TO BE LIKE THAT SINCE YOU HIDE YOUR IDENTITIES.
YES. I'LL BRING IT WITH ME WHEN WE SIGN LATER ON.
THANK GOOD-NESS .... THE SUN SHINES THROUGH HERE.
♪ FOR THE FIRST TIME WE FOUND OUR CASTLE
GILBERT ...COME OVER HERE.

ARE WE REALLY GOING TO LIVE HERE ...?
.....
LET'S LET SOME AIR IN...
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE NO ONE'S BEEN HERE UNTIL NOW.
Heave ho!
... THIS PLACE IS FILTHY!
IT SMELLS AWFUL.
GAH!
I'M JUST HAPPY WE GET TO SEE SOME SUNLIGHT!
AHH
WITH JUST ONE SKYLIGHT
.... A BED
....AND A BROKEN MIRROR
THIS IS OUR CASTLE!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL FIX IT SOME-HOW.

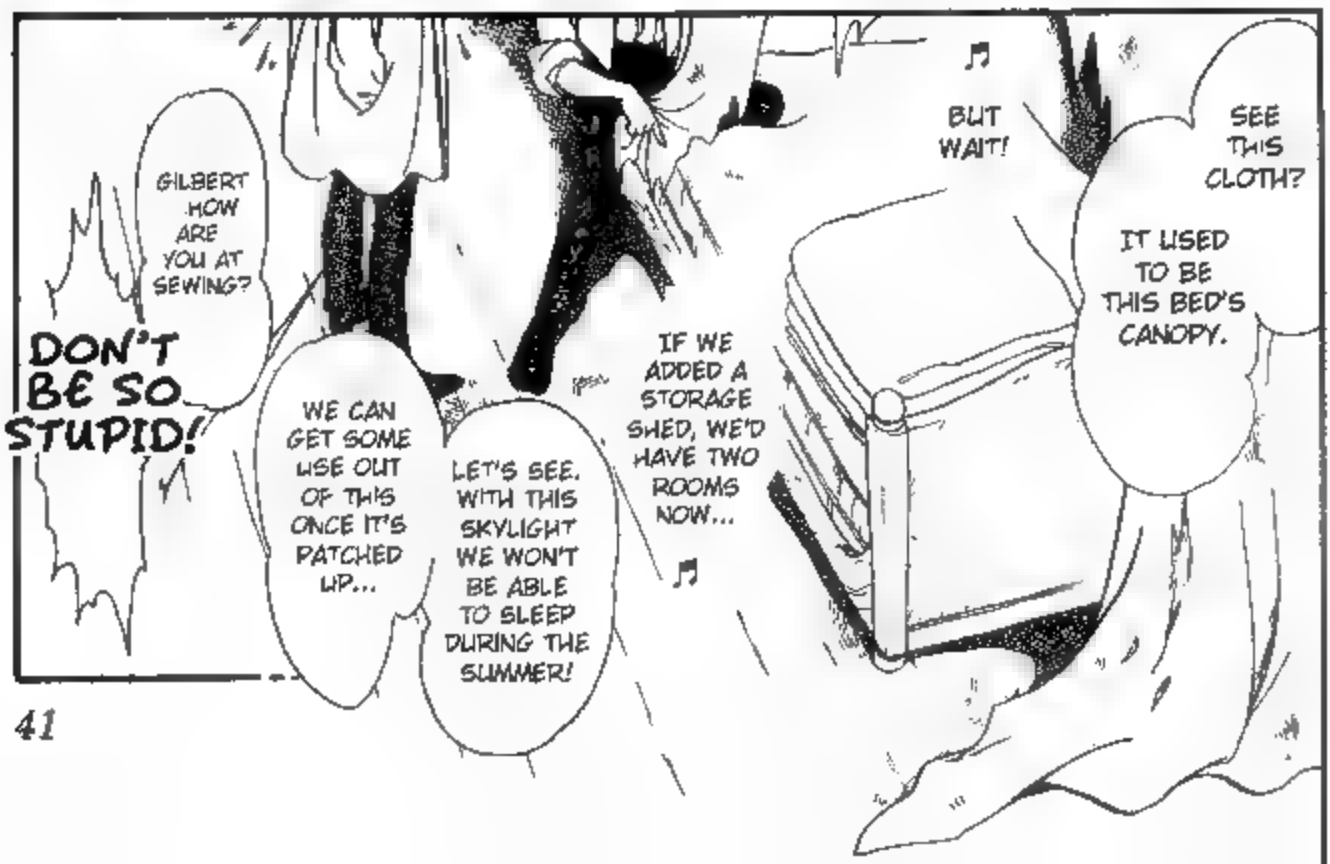
EVERYONE STARTS OUT THEIR LIVES IN A PLACE LIKE TH S.
...YES. WE'RE POOR STUDENTS THAT RAN AWAY TO PARIS.
カシャン

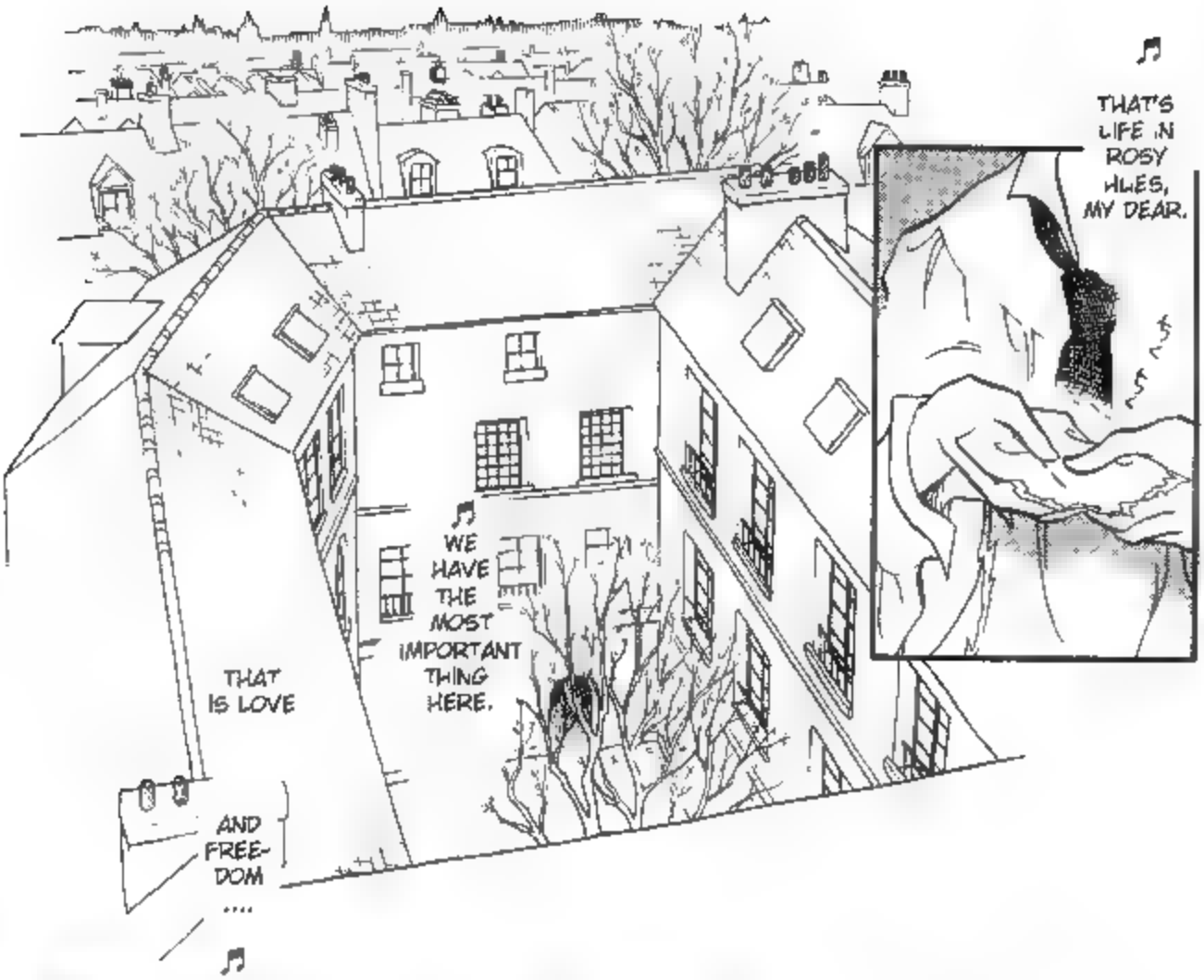
...I ASKED YOU IF YOU REALLY PLAN ON US LIVING HERE!
♬ THERE'S NO KITCHEN, NO BATHROOM. JUST ONE FLOOR.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS! JUST WATCH- I'LL CLEAN THIS PLACE UP REAL GOOD.
WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO BACK US, SO GETTING THIS FAR IS GOOD.

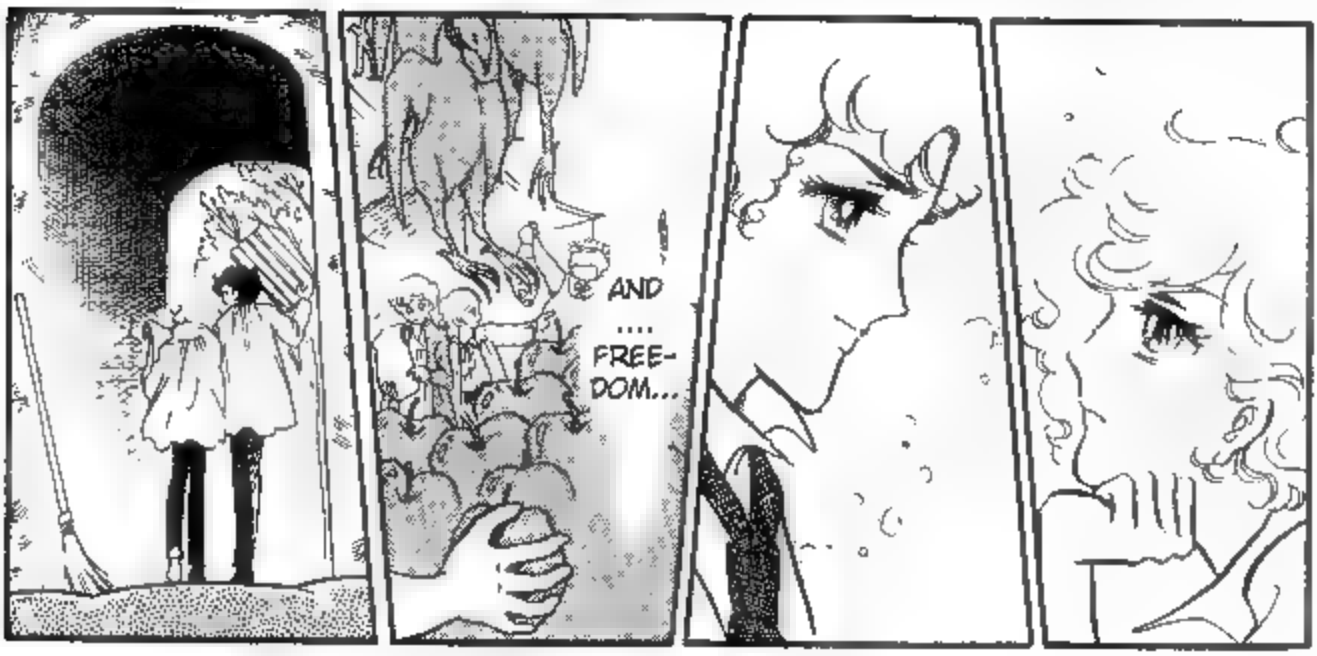
is that so?

I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE THIS BAD.


GILBERT HOW ARE YOU AT SEWING?
DON'T BE SO STUPID!
WE CAN GET SOME USE OUT OF THIS ONCE IT'S PATCHED UP...
LET'S SEE. WITH THIS SKYLIGHT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP DURING THE SUMMER!
IF WE ADDED A STORAGE SHED, WE'D HAVE TWO ROOMS NOW...
♬
♬ BUT WAIT!
SEE THIS CLOTH?
IT USED TO BE THIS BED'S CANOPY.


THAT'S LIFE IN ROSY HUES, MY DEAR.
WE HAVE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING HERE.
THAT IS LOVE
AND FREE-DOM ....

BUT, I UNDER-STAND THE BASICS...
THIS KIND OF THING IS REALLY BEST LEFT FOR WOMEN TO DO.
HMM.
AREN'T YOU HANDY?

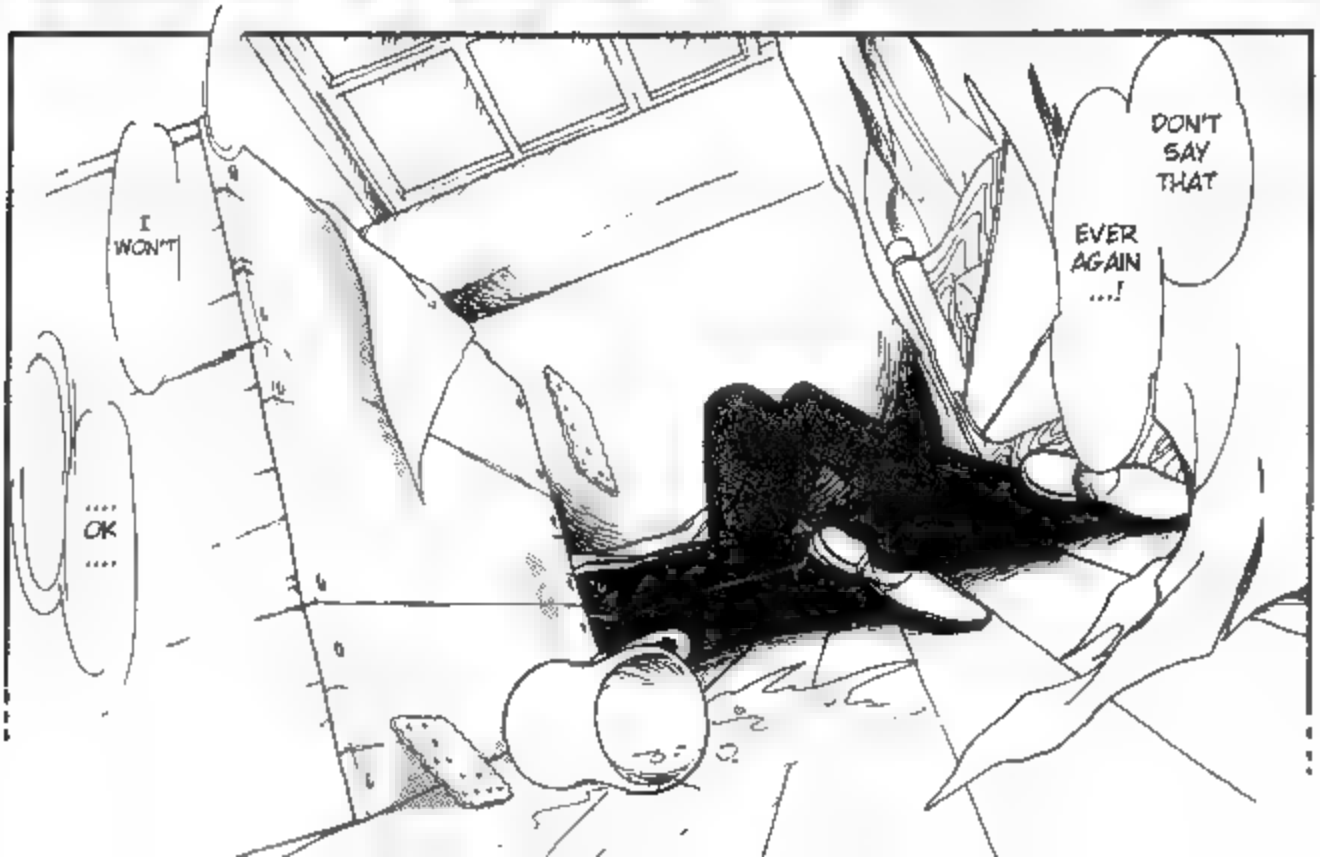

AND .... FREE-DOM...

CHECK IT OUT, GILBERT!
IT LEAVES A MUCH MORE DIFFERENT IMPRESSION THAN WHEN WE FIRST MOVED IN.
AL-RIGHT ...!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A THIEF! SO BRAVE OF YOU!
HUMANS CAN DO ANYTHING WHEN PRESSED!
I'M HUNGRY! TIME FOR FOOD! FOOD!
THIS TABLE, JUST EARLIER WAS A BOX I SWIPED FROM THE GROCERY STORE!
I TOLD YOU! WHAT MAKES A HOME IS THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE!
YOU'RE RIGHT!

HE FINALLY SMILED ....
GIL-BERT ....
YOU'RE NOT RE-GRET-TING THINGS, ARE YOU?

OH NO REASON

I'M NOT.
WHY...?


DON'T SAY THAT EVER AGAIN ...!
I WON'T
.... OK ....

WAIT! WHO ARE YOU?
COM-ING!
knock knock knock!
HM ...?
THAT WAS... A GIRL.
SHE HAD BLACK HAIR JUST LIKE MY MOTHER'S ...
...SOME PEOPLE ARE WELCOM-ING US ....

EXCUSE ME. PLEASE LET ME WASH WITH YOU. I HAVE TO GO LOOK FOR A JOB.

...WAS IT BY CHANCE YOU? THAT KINDLY GAVE US THAT WELCOME?

OH MY, CAMILLE! SO SMOOTH.
SHE'S INTERESTED IN THAT KIND OF GUY!?
OR MAYBE! THE PRETTY BOY HE LIVES WITH!

OVER HERE... COME WITH ME.

THEY'RE LAUGHING AT HOW POLITE HE'S SPEAKING. IT'S HARD TO CONVEY IN ENGLISH RIP

HOLD ON, CAMILLE! DID YOU FORGET THAT YOU HAVE TO WASH THE DISHES AS PUNISHMENT FOR SNATCHING AWAY THAT CHICKEN LEG?!

HUH ...?

LET'S GO AWAY FROM HERE!

PFFFFF

HA HA HA HA HA

KYA HA HA HA HA HA

by

cho

nce

kind ly gave

DON'T GO MEDDLING WHERE YOU DON'T BELONG! TRYING TO FLAUNT YOUR ATTRACTION TO MEN LIKE YOU'RE SOME BLUSHING VIRGIN!!

WHAT'S THIS, CA-MILLE!?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ARE YOU HER MOTHER? I PROBABLY RECEIVED THAT CHICKEN.

HA HA HA HA HA

AHAHAHA

THINK ABOUT THE REPUTATION OF OUR SHOP! HE'S TOO YOUNG TO COME OVER!

FOOL!

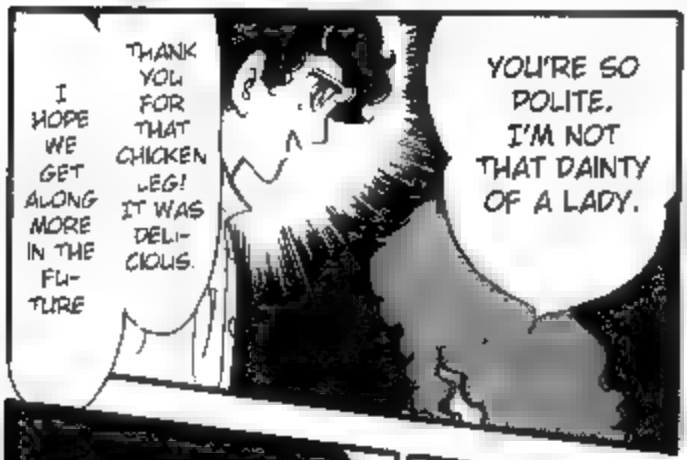
YOU ALWAYS DO THIS WHENEVR YOUNG MEN MOVE HERE, MA'AM!!

ENOUGH, MA'AM!

HE'S JUST AN ACQUAIN-TANCE!

...IDIOT! OUR PLACE IS A BROTHEL.
OH WELL. IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.

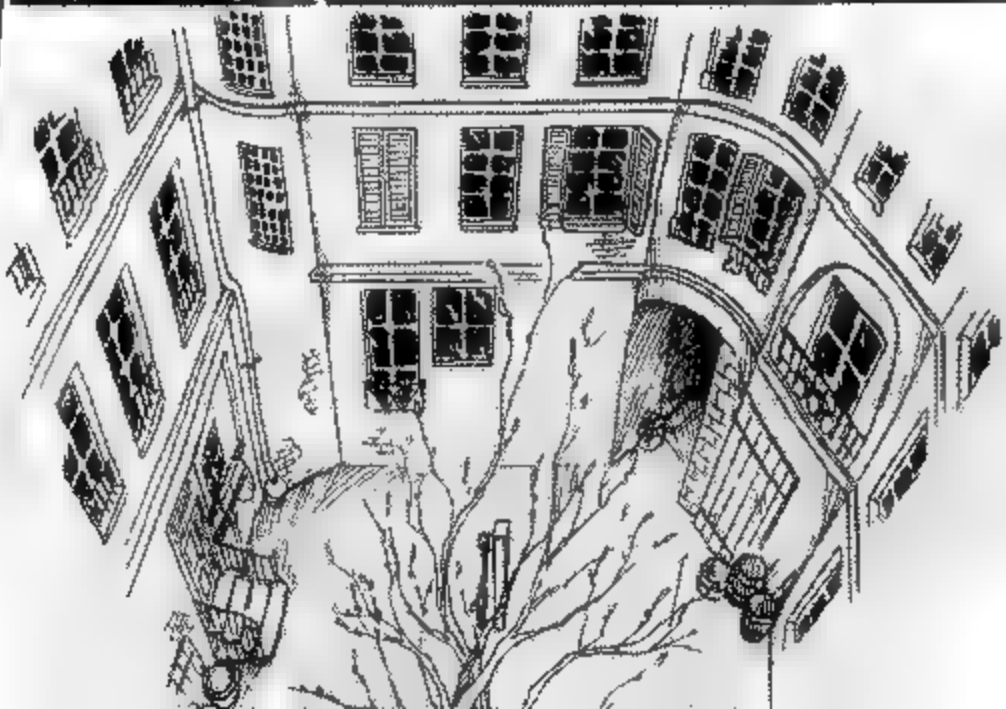
AHAHAH
PLEASE FORGIVE HER!
I'LL COME TO YOUR SHOP ONE DAY TO MAKE IT UP!
Don't do that!


YOU'RE SO POLITE. I'M NOT THAT DAINTY OF A LADY.
THANK YOU FOR THAT CHICKEN LEG! IT WAS DELICIOUS.
I HOPE WE GET ALONG MORE IN THE FUTURE

.....!
YOU WEREN'T HURT, WERE YOU?

SERGE

I'M CAMILLE



ガヤガヤ
ガヤガ
THAT SOUNDS PRETTY TOUGH, DOESN'T IT?
YOUR CURRENT JOBS ARE AT THAT CHEAP CAFE FOR 3 HOURS IN THE MORNING, AND THEN CLEANING THE THEATER FROM 2 TO 5 IN THE AFTERNOON. SO THIS JOB WOULD BE AFTER THAT.
ALRIGHT ...FROM SIX IN THE EVENING TO ELEVEN.

EVEN THOUGH THIS IS JUST A BISTRO ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN, THE MANAGER IS WELL-EDUCATED. I FIGURED HE WOULD LIKE YOU!
THANK YOU, CAMILLE!
THIS IS ALL THANKS TO YOU!

...WHERE DID HE WANDER IN FROM ...? HE SEEMS LIKE A STUDENT.
HMM

ザワ
NOT AT ALL! I CAN DO IT
GOOD
THEN COME HERE TONIGHT. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE BACK.

ブス
HE'LL JOIN US AS AN ASSISTANT FROM 6 TO 11.
HIS NAME IS SERGE MAREH HE IS 17.
stare
THIS IS OUR BEHIND-THE-SCENES SUPER-VISOR, QUADRO.
NICE TO MEET YOU!

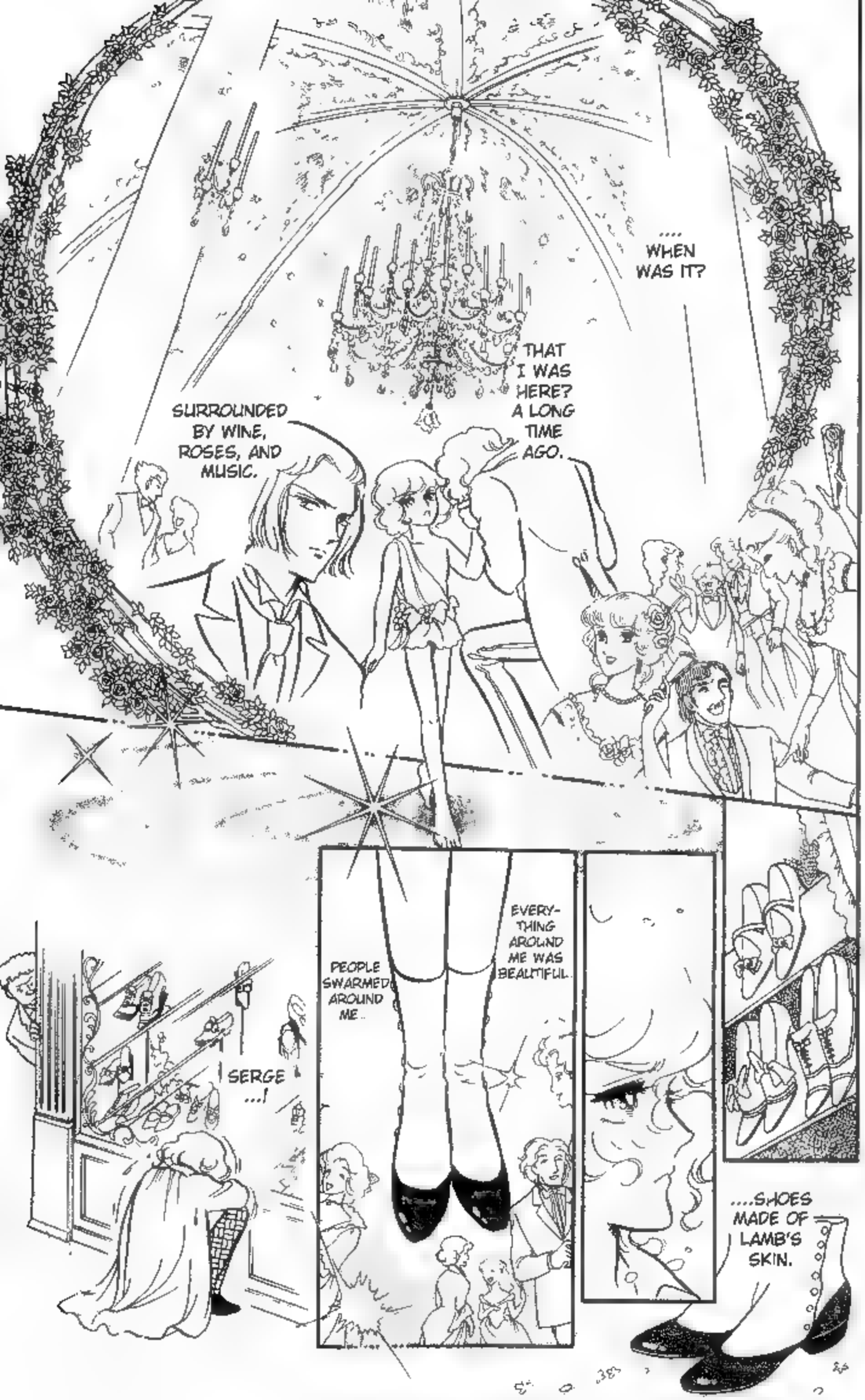
HEY! WHO SAID YOU COULD TAKE A BREAK!?
CAN'T LEAVE YOU GUYS ALONE FOR ONE SECOND! USELESS LOT!
SHOW HIM AROUND THE BACK AND EXPLAIN THE JOB.
I'LL GO GET THEM! WHERE ARE THEY?
TWO BAGS OF POTATOES, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? I SAID TO BRING OVER TWO SACKS OF POTATOES FROM THE STOREHOUSE!
THE CUSTOMERS ARE WAITING!
WELL, NOW! WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS!
YES SIR!
THE WASHED DISHES HAVEN'T COME BACK YET! DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING BEHIND!
HERE YOU GO! ANYTHING ELSE?

I'VE SET THEM ALL ON THE TABLE. THEY'RE EASY TO STACK.
LOOK. IF YOU DO THIS, YOU CAN GET THE MOST USE OUT OF THE SOAP.
AND THEN, WITH THE TOWEL ...

In Japanese he calls Serge a "black kite" which is a hawk-ish bird that's actually brown. This is clearly a reference to his skin color because a page later the other manager talks about his "hawk color/Tobi-iro" which if you google it looks like mahogany. Being called a hawk, though, sounds really cool in English so I tried going for something comparable

...THIS IS AMAZING, QUADRO.
DID HE FOLLOW YOUR DIRECTIONS?
I HEARD YOU MADE SERGE DO THIS
ジロッ
I DON'T THINK THIS PLACE HAS EVER BEEN SO CLEAN BEFORE...
IT'D BE A WASTE TO KEEP HIM IN THIS LOW POSITION, BUT... THAT SKIN COLOR IS A PROBLEM.
HE CAN DO MATH AS WE...
HE UNDERSTANDS RULES OF COURTESY.
HE'S SMART
HE DOES EVERYTHING PERFECTLY AND QUICKLY
I DON'T THINK THAT IS THE CASE.
I...
IN THE MOOD FOR TALKING BACK, ARE YA!?
HEY MUTT!
ARE YOU FALLING ASLEEP? THERE'S NOT ENOUGH WINE!
.....

IDIOT!
THAT WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR PAY!
HEY MUTT!
HERE!
TAKE THIS FOOD OVER TO THE MANAGER IN HIS ROOM.
W... WAIT!
I DON'T HAVE ANY PROTECTION FOR MY HANDS..
OW
... HMPH ...
BETTER HAVE THE CHEF MAKE IT AGAIN!


....
WHEN WAS IT?
THAT I WAS HERE? A LONG TIME AGO.
SURROUNDED BY WINE, ROSES, AND MUSIC.
SERGE ...!
PEOPLE SWARMED AROUND ME..
EVERY-THING AROUND ME WAS BEAUTIFUL.
....SHOES MADE OF LAMB'S SKIN.

...LOOK! ISN'T IT AMAZING!? THE CHEFS SET ASIDE SOME LEFTOVERS.
IT TASTES GOOD
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN EATING A LOT LATELY, SO I'VE BEEN WORRIED. YOU NEED NUTRITION.
GOOD!
THIS IS GOURMET COMPARED TO WHAT WE USUALLY EAT, HUH?
GILBERT ....?
YOU NEVER ASK. HOW I SPEND, MY TIME ALL DAY ...YOU DON'T CARE.
I WENT TO THE PARK AND WATCHED PIDGEONS.
THEN, IN THE AFTERNOON, I EXPLORED MANY FAMOUS LOCATIONS.
HOLD ON, GILBERT ...!
GILBERT!
I WAS HUNGRY, SO I ATE SOME CHESTNUTS. AND THEN... I WENT TO THE STATION... AND WATCHED THE TRAINS COME AND GO, UP UNTIL NOW!

I'M SORRY ...IT'S JUST I'VE BEEN HUNGRY FOR A WHILE.
I WAS ONLY FOCUSED ON EATING.
WHEN I WATCHED THE TRAINS GO...
IT MADE ME WANT TO GO SOME-WHERE ...
I WANTED TO JUMP ON THE TRAIN.
GILBERT
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO MAR-SEILLES?
I DON'T CARE WHERE!
AS LONG AS IT'S NOT HERE!
YOU SHOULD TRY HIDING AWAY IN HERE, TOO!
JUST SIT AROUND ...AND WAIT ALL DAY!
IT'S SUFFO-CATING!!
HE'S RIGHT ... THERE'S NOTHING TO DO HERE.
BUT, HAVING A JOB ...
IS THAT SOME-THING HE'D BE ABLE TO TOLERATE ...?
DO YOU WANT TO..
TRY WORKING A JOB, GILBERT?

GARCON (PRONOUNCED GAIR-SON) IS THE FRENCH WORD FOR "BOY" AND CAN MEAN A WAITER AT A FRENCH RESTAURANT. THE JAPANESE TEXT IS LITERALLY "GYARUSON" AND THE MANGAKA LEAVES A NOTE OUTSIDE THE PANEL THAT EXPLAINS IT MEANS WAITER.

THE CUSTOMERS WILL SURELY PILE ON THE TIPS FOR YOU!
... HOH! YOU SURE CAN CLEAN UP WELL!
SHOULDN'T YOU EXPLAIN HIS JOB TO HIM?
NO, DON'T GO! UM...
NOW GO.

EXPLAIN? WHAT'S THERE TO EXPLAIN?
ALL HE'S TO DO IS BRING OVER THE FOOD THEY ORDER
EVERY-THING ELSE IS JUST PUTTING ON SOME CHARM.

ANY-THING ELSE?
NO... THANK YOU.
I was afraid this would happen
HERE IS YOUR ORDER OF FRIED GARLIC LIVER
THAT WAS LOUD
EEK ...!

THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN! CALL SERGE OVER!

THERE'S BEER ON THE TERRACE OUTSIDE. YOU THREE, GO GET IT!
I NEED WINE. ...ANY ALCOHOL!
BRING SOME COLD ONES!

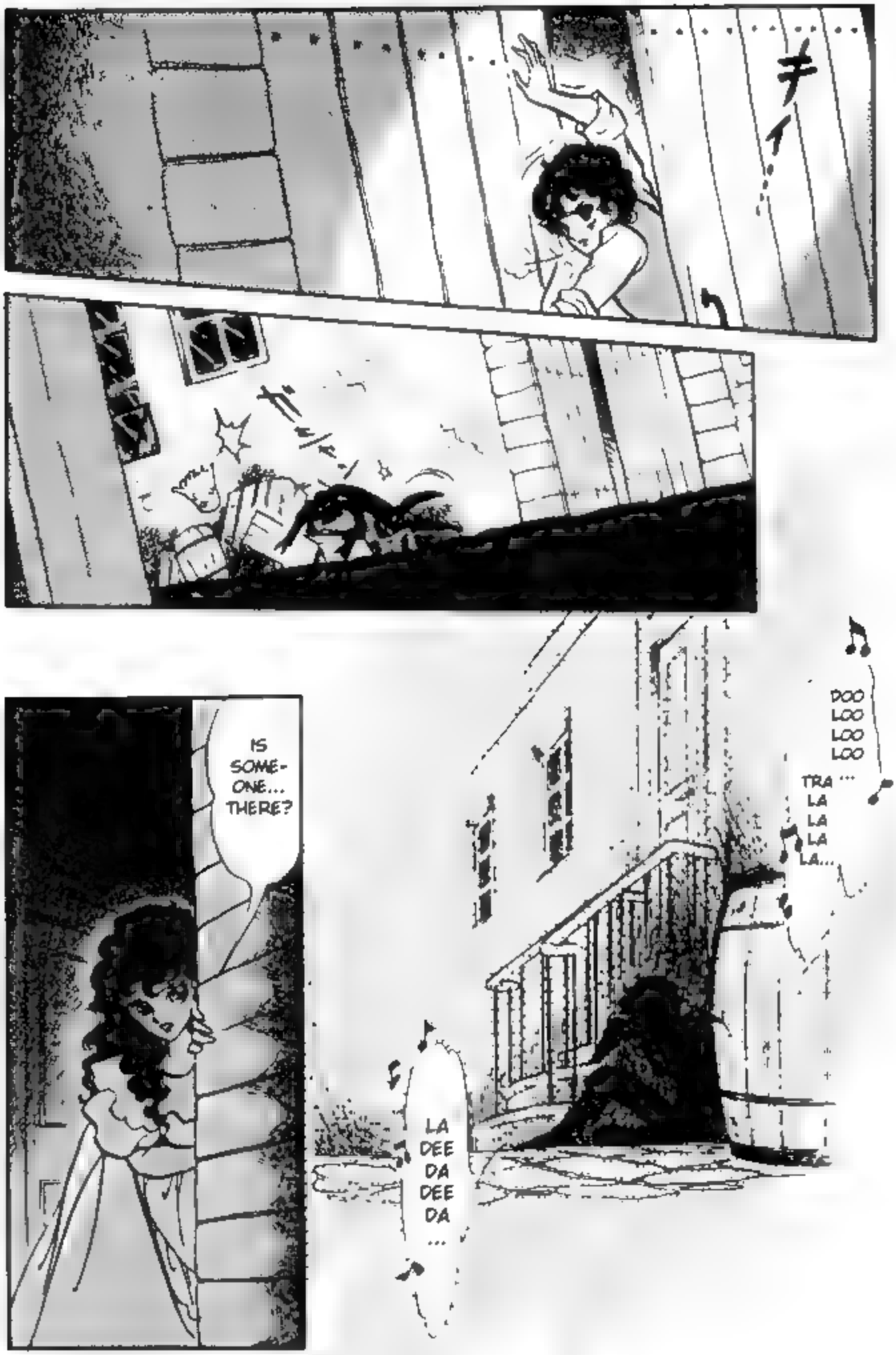
C'MON! LET'S GIVE OUR ORDERS TO HIM!
...HE'S SO PRETTY .... SIGH...
YES! WE CAN GIVE HIM OUR TIPS! SUCH A CUTIE DESERVES IT ♡
HEY, LOOK AT THAT BOY!
...I SEE!
THE ONE WITHOUT THE APRON?
HE HAS NO PRIDE!
WE ALL HAVE TO WEAR APRONS NO MATTER WHAT!
... HMPH! WHAT A SHOW-OFF!
HE'S EARNING MORE THAN YOU RIGHT NOW, YEAH?
THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF CUSTOMERS COMING JUST TO SEE THAT BLONDE BOY.
WELL? IT'S LIKE I SAID.
THIS JUST GIVES ME MORE THINGS... TO WORRY ABOUT.
... SIR!

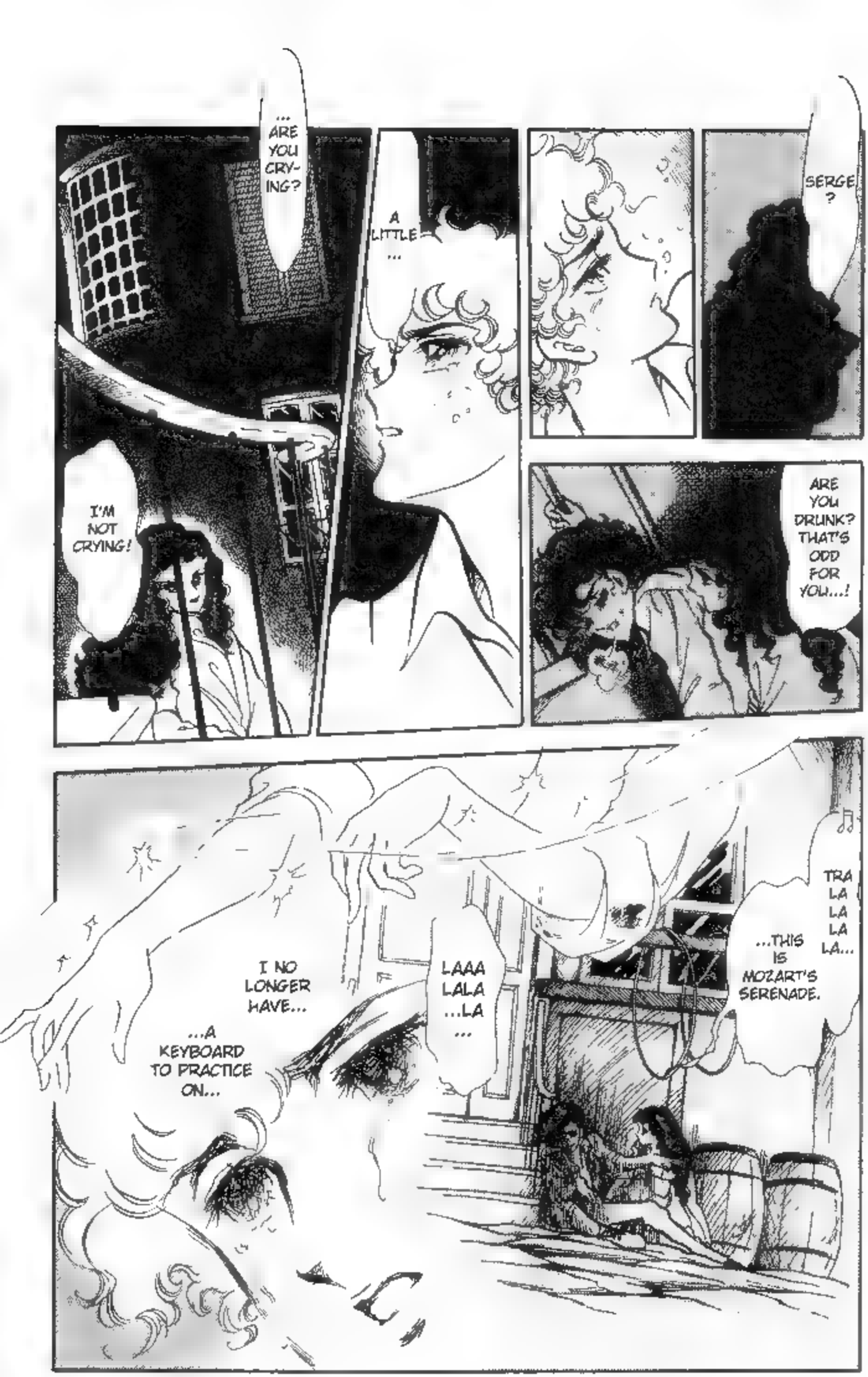
The first bubble is found word-for-word in an 1890 latin course book but no translation is given. All I can say is that they're talking about Caesar and Greece

THE LATIN QUARTER IS AN EDUCATED PLACE WHERE STUDENTS USE LATIN IN THEIR EVERY DAY LIFE IN ORDER TO PRACTICE ACCORDING TO THE NOTE THE MANGAKA LEAVES HERE

EXCUSE ME... ARE YOU... SERGE BATTOUR?
HUH ...?
ガラン
OH
HE WAS PROFESSOR ROUCH'S PUPIL. MY RIVAL...
...IT'S HIM.
HENRI BERNARD

OH! ...YOU'RE BACK ALREADY?
WHAT'S UP, HENRI BER?
SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
I THOUGHT IT WAS.. BUT MAYBE NOT
HE EXCELLED DURING THE CONCERT AUGUSTE BEAU HELD.
...AND WENT TO THE PARIS CONSERVATORY IN MY PLACE...
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYONE YOU KNOW HERE
AND YOU'RE FROM SOUTHERN FRANCE, RIGHT?
WE RARELY GO OUT THIS FAR AWAY
I SWORE THAT I WOULDN'T REGRET THIS!
IDIOT ..... IDIOT!


チイ
ドサッ
IS SOME-ONE... THERE?
DOO LOO LOO LOO
TRA... LA LA LA LA...
LA DEE DA DEE DA ...


...ARE YOU CRYING?
A LITTLE...
I'M NOT CRYING!
SERGE?
ARE YOU DRUNK? THAT'S ODD FOR YOU...!
TRA LA LA LA LA...
...THIS IS MOZART'S SERENADE.
LAAA LALA ...LA ...
I NO LONGER HAVE...
...A KEYBOARD TO PRACTICE ON...

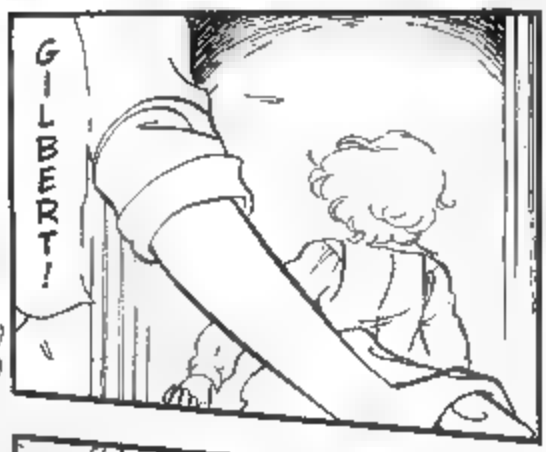
SERGE ...
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.
I HAVE TO FORGET...
IT HURTS TO THINK ABOUT THE PIANO.
BECAUSE I KNOW... THAT YOU'RE NOT SUITED FOR WORK...
WHY?
...PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT. THAT MAKES IT WORSE.
I HATE WORKING.
WE'RE STARTING TO SETTLE DOWN, AND YOU'RE EVEN WORKING NOW.
NOT AT ALL! I'M FINE!
ギョ
... I LOVE YOU.

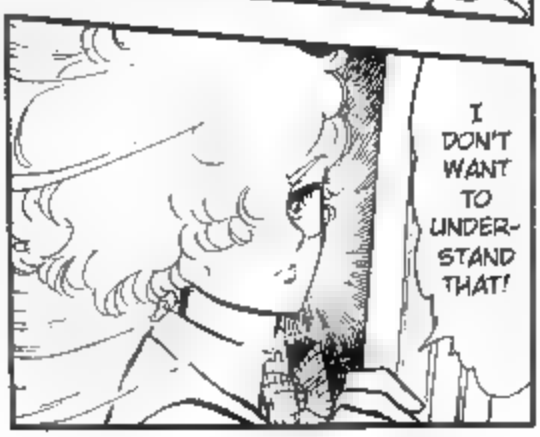
……
HMM
HEH... HEH
ナキャ

STOP IT! QUIT MESSING AROUND!

HEE
HEE
HEE
....I'M JUST TRYING TO AVOID GETTING HARASSED AGAIN OVER THIS.
YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?

...IT'S JUST HIS OWN WAY OF BE-HAVING.
IF ONLY THERE WAS A WAY... PEOPLE COULD ACCEPT IT.


GILBERT!

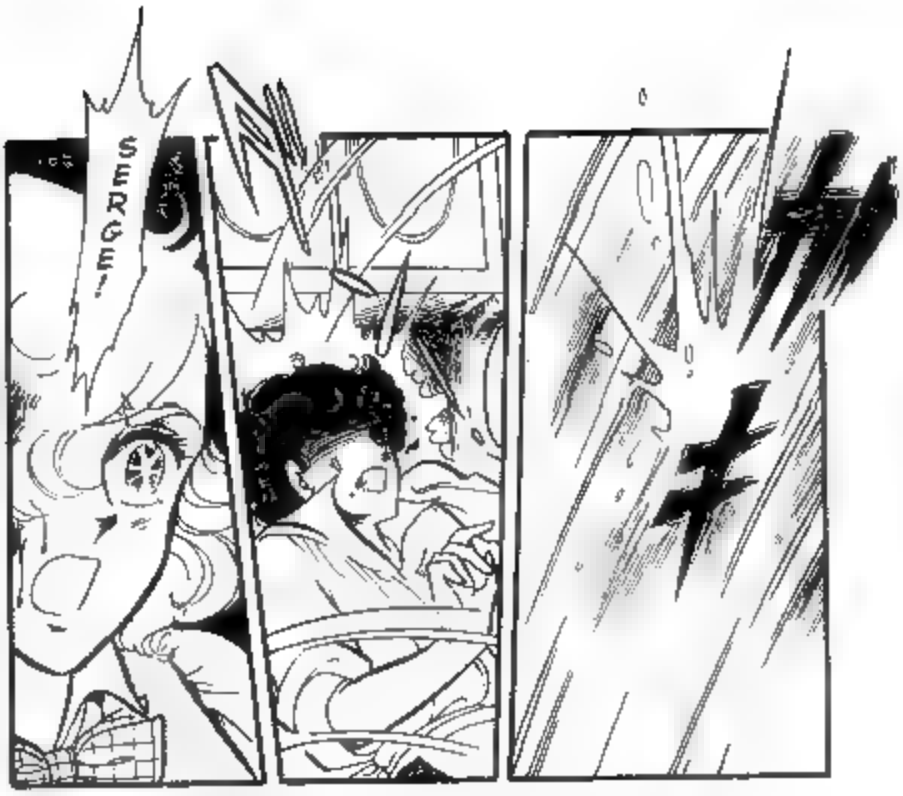

I DON'T WANT TO UNDER-STAND THAT!

HERE!
IT'S OK IF YOU TAKE IT OFF.
HEY! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF YOUR APRON LIKE BLONDIE DOES?
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO PREPARE YOURSELF IF YOU WANNA TOUCH WHAT YOU LIKE.
I DON'T THINK IT'D BE MUCH FUN TO MAKE FUN OF THE BLONDE GUY.
YEAH. HE WOULDN'T GET RILED UP
YOU'VE NEVER TOUCHED A GIRL, HAVE YOU?
IT'S PATHETIC HOW MUCH WE HAVE TO TEACH YOU!
LIKE THIS!
LET'S PRACTICE! WE'LL BE YOUR PARTNERS.
AND THEN? WHAT DO YOU DO NEXT?
THERE ARE SOME THINGS EVERY PERSON HAS TO DO IN LIFE.
UGH
UGH
UGH
UGH
I WON'T ... THINK NEGATIVELY.
THIS IS YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR DOING STRANGE THINGS DURING WORK!
HAVE A DRINK! TAKE YOUR FILL!

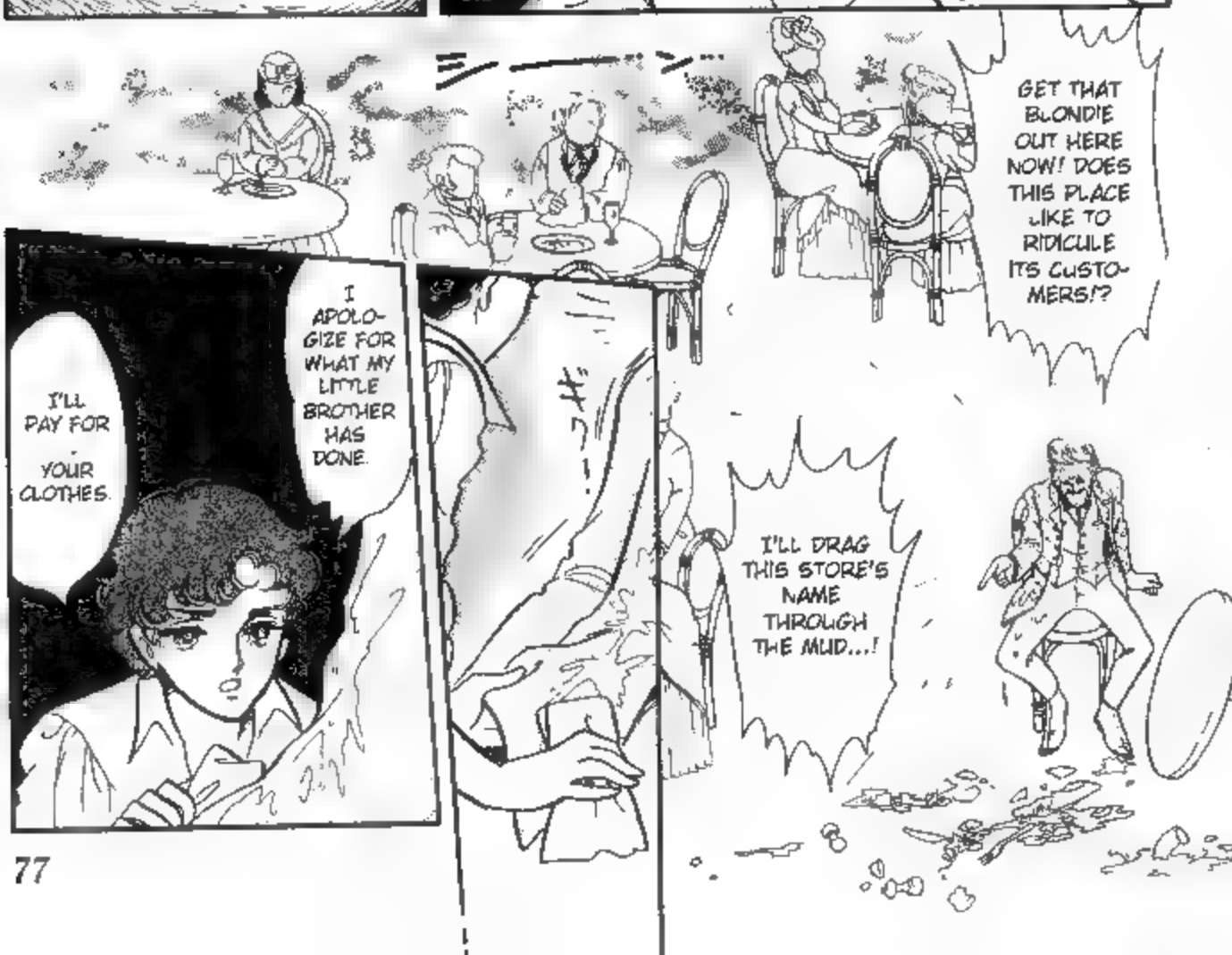
THE PLACE IS A COMPLETE MESS!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
EVERY-ONE GET OUT THERE AND CLEAN UP!
YOU GOTTA KEEP YOUR COOL NO MATTER WHAT GETS DONE TO YOU!
THE BLONDE BRAT HAD HIS ASS GROPED BY A CUSTOMER AND TURNED THE TABLE OVER!
*SCREAMING AND THINGS BREAKING
キャー
... GIL-BERT!
... YOUR FACE

KEEP QUIET ...!
... THE CUSTOMER GRABBED ME FROM BEHIND.
LOOK AT ME... DO YOU HAVE BLOOD IN YOUR EYES?
WHAT AN APE!
ズン
... WHEN I TURNED THE TABLE OVER,
I WAS HIT SO HARD I FELL DOWN!
BLONDIE, YOU BETTER APOLOGIZE TO THE CUSTOMERS FOR ALL THE TROUBLE YOU CAUSED!
HEY MUTT!
COME OVER HERE! YOU GOTTA CLEAN UP ALL BY YOURSELF!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
PLEASE STOP! I'LL APOLOGIZE FOR HIM!
HIS HEAD IS BADLY WOUNDED!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? THE CUSTOMERS ARE FURIOUS! THEY'RE OUT OF CONTROL!
...I'LL GO...


SERGE!

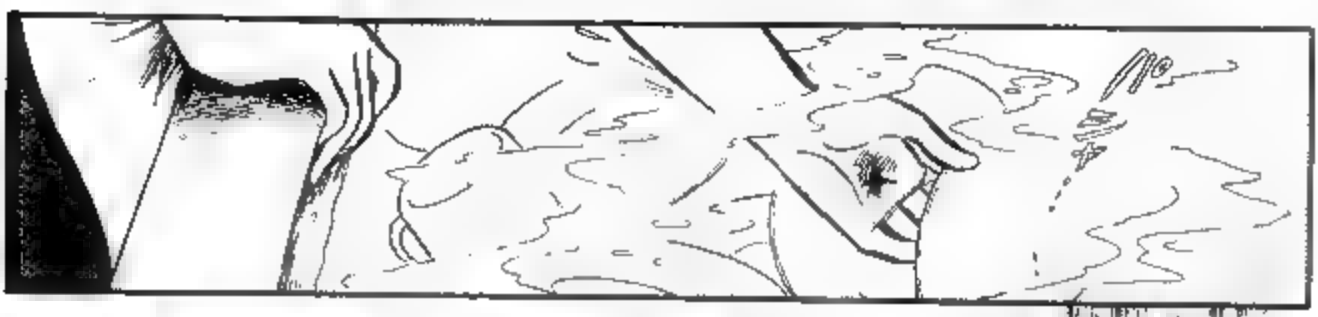
GO OUT THERE BLONDIE!
THEY WERE IN THE WRONG! WHY DO I HAVE TO.


GET THAT BLONDIE OUT HERE NOW! DOES THIS PLACE LIKE TO RIDICULE ITS CUSTOMERS!?
I'LL DRAG THIS STORE'S NAME THROUGH THE MUD...!
I APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT MY LITTLE BROTHER HAS DONE.
I'LL PAY FOR YOUR CLOTHES.

WH...
HOW ABOUT AN ASH TRAY? I NEED AN ASH TRAY!
USE MY HAND.
I'LL DO ANY-THING I CAN
I. I WON'T BE SA-TISFIED WITH JUST MONETARY COMPEN-SATION!
Oh no ...!
.....!
... HOW BOLD!
YOUR PANTS ARE DIRTY, TOO...
... CAN YOU STAND?

THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH FOR ME!
HE NEEDS TO LOOK OVER THAT CHILD!
OH MY... WHERE ON EARTH IS THE MANAGER!?
JUST BE CARE-FUL NEXT TIME!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
OH.. IT ISN'T? I'M SORRY I JUST
EVEN TRYING TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE LIKE THIS IS NOT GOOD FOR THE STORE
GO BACK INSIDE THIS HAS CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE
I APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THE DISTRESS THIS HAS CAUSED.
IT'S ALRIGHT, MADAMS. I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
IDIOT!
WHY DID YOU APOLOGIZE TO HIM LIKE THAT!?
WHY WON'T YOU LOOK AT ME!?

...IT'S NOT OVER. YOUR ATTI-TUDE...
DIS-GUSTS ME!!
YOU CAN GO BACK TO WORK. IT'S OVER NOW.
SORRY. I WASN'T THINKING.

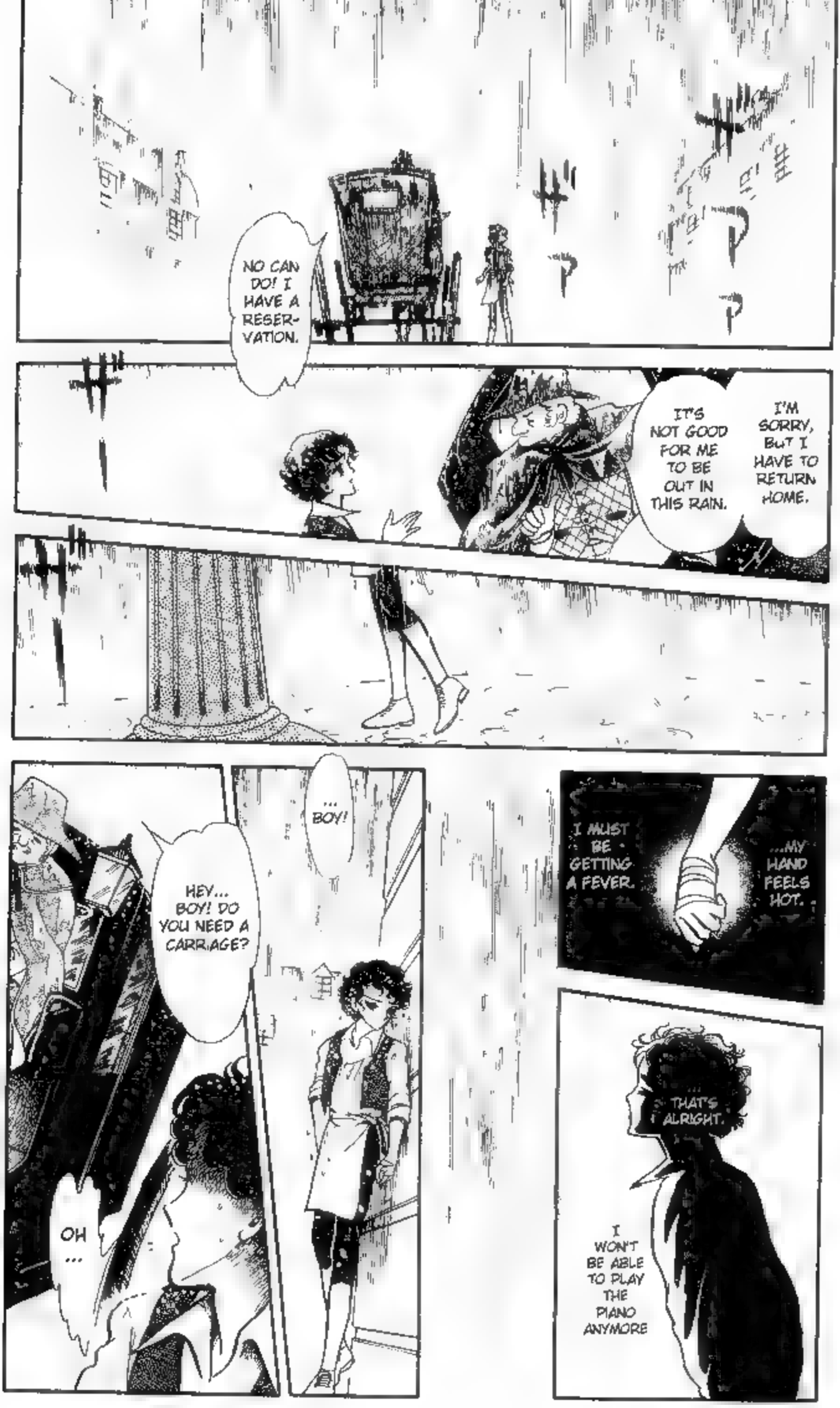


GO GET IT, MUTT!
IT'S OUT THERE STANDING IN THE MAIN STREET!

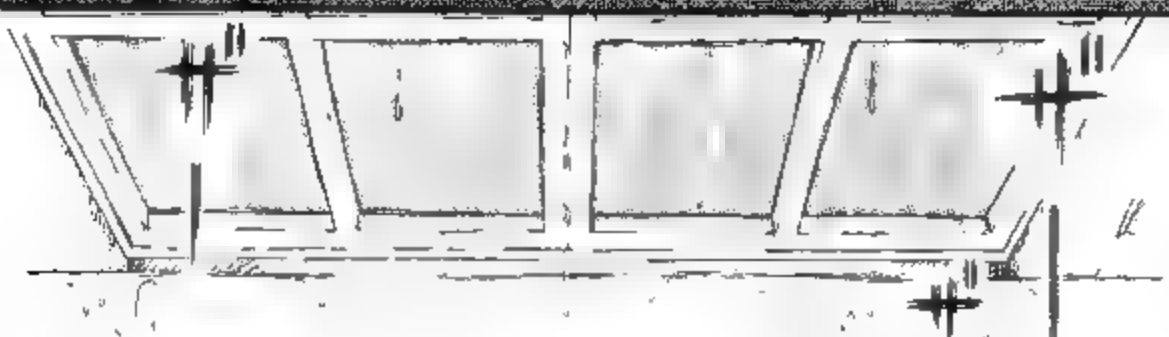
WE CAN'T GO OUT, SIR.
IT JUST STARTED RAINING ALL OF A SUDDEN
WHAT ARE YOU HANGING AROUND FOR? HAS IT STILL NOT COME YET?
WE'RE WAITING IT OUT

YOU STILL CAN'T SEE THE HORSE CARR-IAGE.
NOT IN THIS RAIN ...

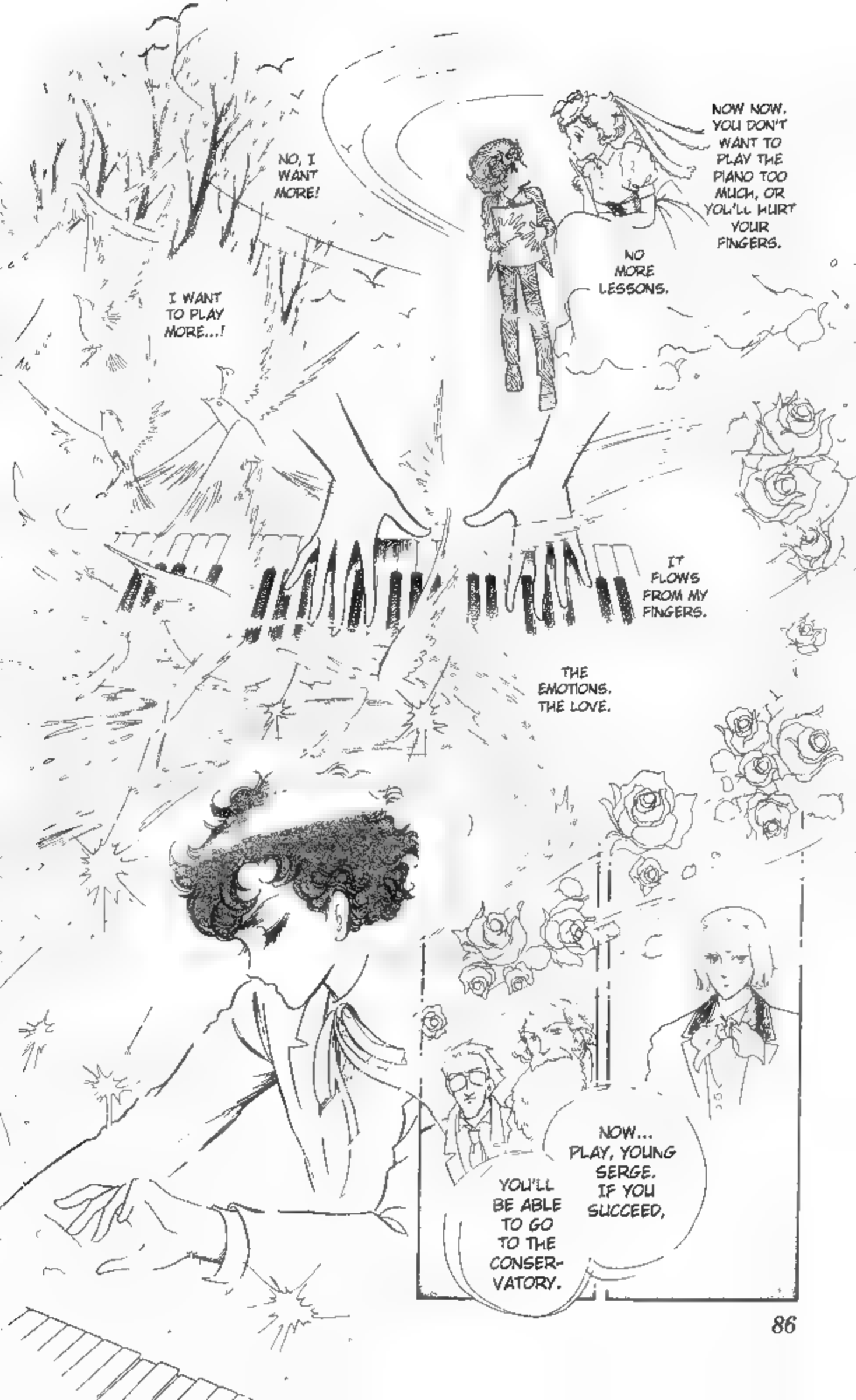
SORRY
SIR! SORRY, BUT WE DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE. WE FOUND SOMEONE ELSE.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? AFTER I CAME ALL THIS WAY!
OK.
...PLEASE GO THAT WAY. TURN THE CORNER AND THE BISTRO WILL BE THERE.
HE DID A GOOD JOB.
THE MUTT'S ALMOST HERE.
YOU MUST'VE GIVEN HIM THE WRONG DIRECTIONS! GO OUT AGAIN!
THE CUSTOMERS ARE GETTING IMPATIENT!
THE CARRIAGE STILL ISN'T HERE!
HUH...? BUT I TOLD HIM TO COME OVER HERE.


NO CAN DO! I HAVE A RESER-VATION.
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR ME TO BE OUT IN THIS RAIN.
I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO RETURN HOME.
HEY... BOY! DO YOU NEED A CARRIAGE?
...BOY!
OH ...
I MUST BE GETTING A FEVER.
...MY HAND FEELS HOT.
...THAT'S ALRIGHT.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO ANYMORE

YOU BETTER GO BACK INSIDE, YOU'LL GET SICK!
IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER? OK.
WHAT'S THAT? Y'DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE?
GIVE ME A BREAK. THERE WAS A GUY LOOKING FOR ME OUT THERE SOAKED TO THE BONE...
HEH HEH ...
AHA HA HA HA HA
AH HA HA HA HA
AH HA HA HA ...

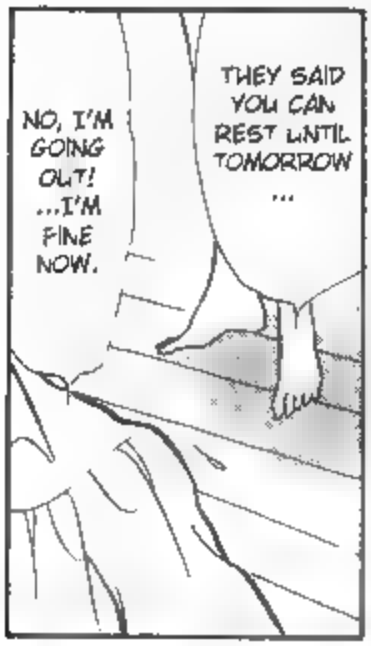


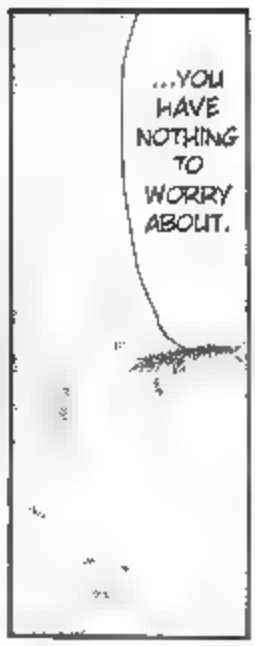
RAIN
...
チャポン
HEY ..PLAY THE SONG OF WATER!
AND LIGHT!
AND THEN WIND
LIGHT ... LIGHT.
GILBERT IN THE LIGHT ..


NO, I WANT MORE!
I WANT TO PLAY MORE...!
NOW NOW. YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY THE PIANO TOO MUCH, OR YOU'LL HURT YOUR FINGERS.
NO MORE LESSONS.
IT FLOWS FROM MY FINGERS.
THE EMOTIONS. THE LOVE.
NOW... PLAY, YOUNG SERGE. IF YOU SUCCEED,
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GO TO THE CONSER-VATORY.

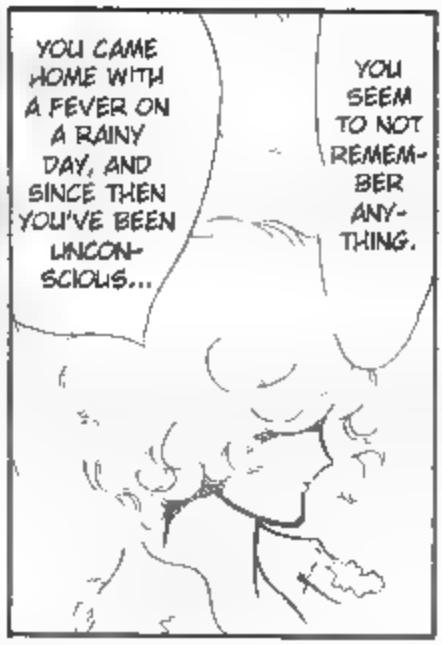
GO TO THE CONSERVATORY.
SO ...? ARE YOU GOING TO GO?
LEAVE ME AND GO TO PARIS ...
GILBERT ...
A CHANCE LIKE THIS WILL NEVER COME AGAIN.
...OH YEAH. AND I'LL GO BACK TO MARSEILLES ...
WITH ALIGU.
WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
IT'S FOR THE BEST
GILBERT ...?
OH YEAH

AH ...!
ARE YOU ...A-WAKE?
YOU SLEPT FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS, COMPLETELY UNRESPONSIVE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
BUT YOU'RE QUITE RESI-LIANT ...
DOES
YOUR HAND HURT ...?
... OH!
NO ...
... WHAT HAD HAP-PENED?


NO, I'M GOING OUT! ...I'M FINE NOW.
THEY SAID YOU CAN REST UNTIL TOMORROW ...


...YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

WHAT ABOUT WORK ?

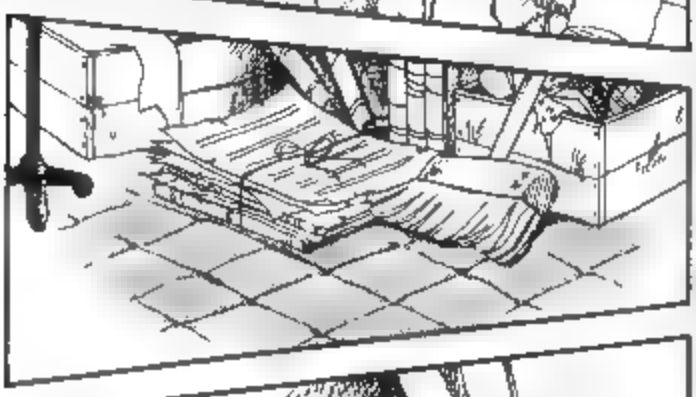

YOU CAME HOME WITH A FEVER ON A RAINY DAY, AND SINCE THEN YOU'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS...
YOU SEEM TO NOT REMEMBER ANYTHING.

THAT HAD HURT HIM...

MAYBE IT WAS SOMETHING RELATED TO MY UNEASY CONSCIENCE,
I WONDER IF I SAID SOMETHING IN MY SLEEP...?

...IT LOOKED LIKE HE SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME.

THE MANAGER GAVE IT TO ME.
IT'S TO MAKE THE PLACE'S MOST FAMOUS WAITER MORE BEAUTIFUL.
WHERE DID THAT SHIRT COME FROM ...?
LOOKS LIKE SILK.
I'M STARTING TO FEEL DIZZY FROM UNEASE.
I DON'T VIEW LIFE AS HARSH
BUT ...
GILBERT...
FOR YOU, I WON'T FEEL THE BURDENS OF LIFE.
PLEASE DON'T FLY AWAY.
I'LL BE UNABLE TO EVEN FEEL EXISTENCE ...!



!
...
OLD MUSIC SHEETS!

HERE HERE! STOP BY THE FLEA MARKET!
TAKE A LOOK!
FEEL FREE TO HAGGLE YOUR PRICE!

NO WAY! WE'RE IN NO STATE... TO BUY ANYTHING WE DON'T NEED!
GIL-BERT!

...
BUY THEM IF YOU WANT 'EM.

IF I BOUGHT THEM ...

MONEY ISN'T WORTH A DAMN IF YOU DON'T SPEND IT ON THINGS YOU WANT!

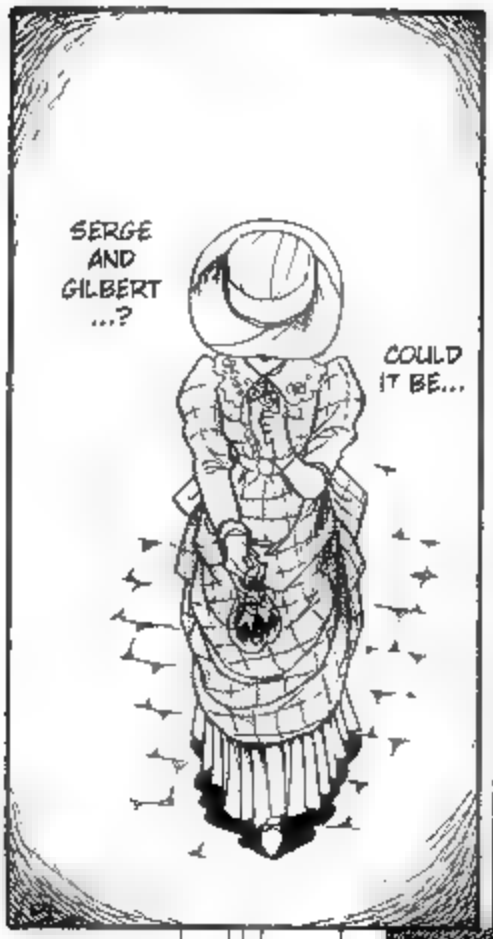
HE'S LIKE.... A FAIRY
HE JUST... CAN SEE INTO MY HEART...
NO POINT BEING MAD ABOUT IT NOW!
AHAHAHA
IN FRONT OF ME...
IT STARTS TO FLOW.
THE MUSIC FLOWS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT'D BE A BIG HELP IF YOU COULD DO THIS FOR FREE.
I HAVE THIS THING HERE
I'D LOVE IT IF WE HAD SOMEONE WHO COULD USE IT.
YES ...?
?
DO WHAT?
.... AH ...

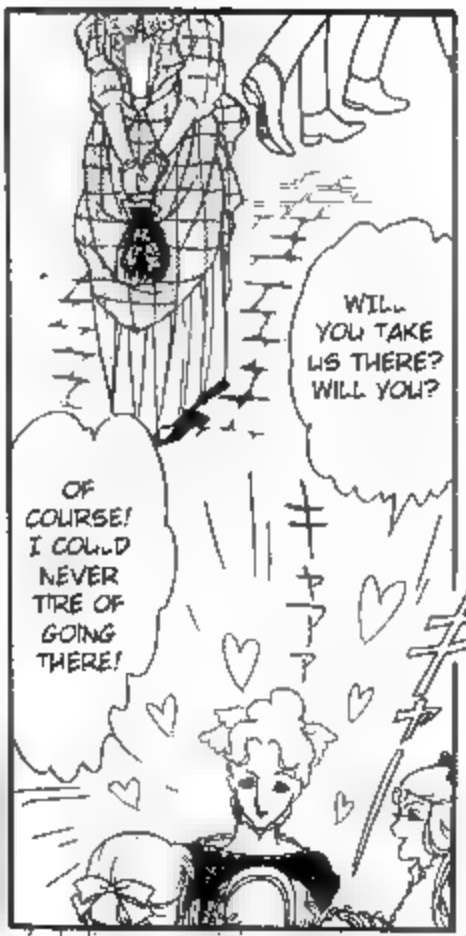
YES!
IF YOU LET ME PLAY THAT... I'LL DO ANYTHING!
ANY-THING!
... IS WHAT I'M SAY-ING.
OUR STORE IS IN NEED OF A PIANIST.
IS THE SOUND OK? I CAN TUNE IT! IF I JUST HAD A LITTLE TIME...
I'M SURE WE CAN COME TO AN...
YOU'LL DO ANYTHING? ...YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT SAYING THAT IN THIS WORLD.
AL-RIGHT. WE'LL TALK LATER THEN.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU!
I CAN PLAY THE PIANO NOW! I CAN PLAY TWICE A DAY AT WORK FOR AN HOUR EACH!
GILBERT!

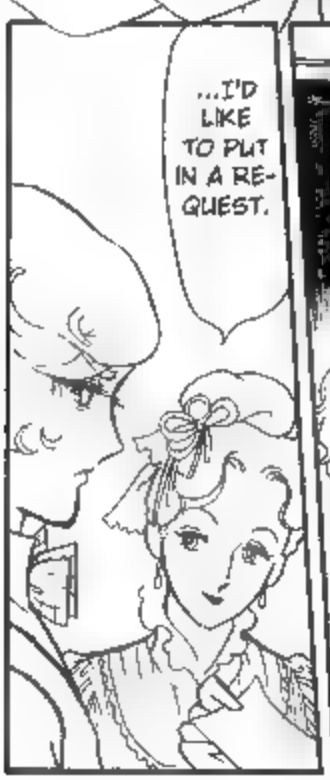
THE BEST ...!
YOU ARE ...
SO NOW I CAN PLAY...!
AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.
PLEASE STOP!
SUCH A RIGID SONG! TRY SOMETHING MORE FLUID!
THIS ISN'T A SCHOOL!
THERE ARE SOME UPS AND DOWNS, BUT...
No Classical music!

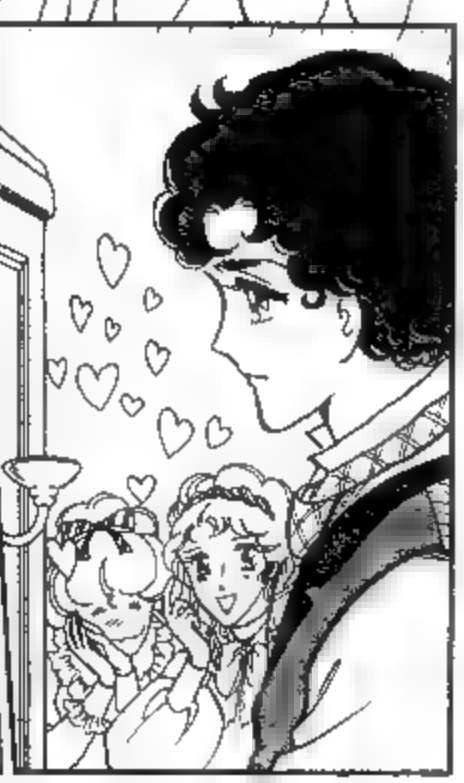
THE NOTES?
IF YOU SING IT, I CAN WRITE THE NOTES DOWN.
LIKE ON A MUSIC SHEET
A BALLAD IS... HOW ELSE CAN I SAY IT...
DO YOU KNOW ANY POPULAR SONGS? CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THEM?
A BAL-LAD?
WHAT'S THAT?
HM...
HE'S GOTTEN GOOD
YOU'VE BEEN THERE, MARE-LLI!?
YES I HAVE! IT'S A WONDERFUL PLACE!
OH, THAT'S THE PLACE WHERE THAT BEAUTIFUL WAITER AND THE DARK-SKINNED PIANIST ARE, RIGHT?
HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE BISTRO LOU CAPI IS?


SERGE AND GILBERT ...?
COULD IT BE...

A BEAUTIFUL WAITER AND A DARK-SKINNED PIANIST.
LOU CAP!...

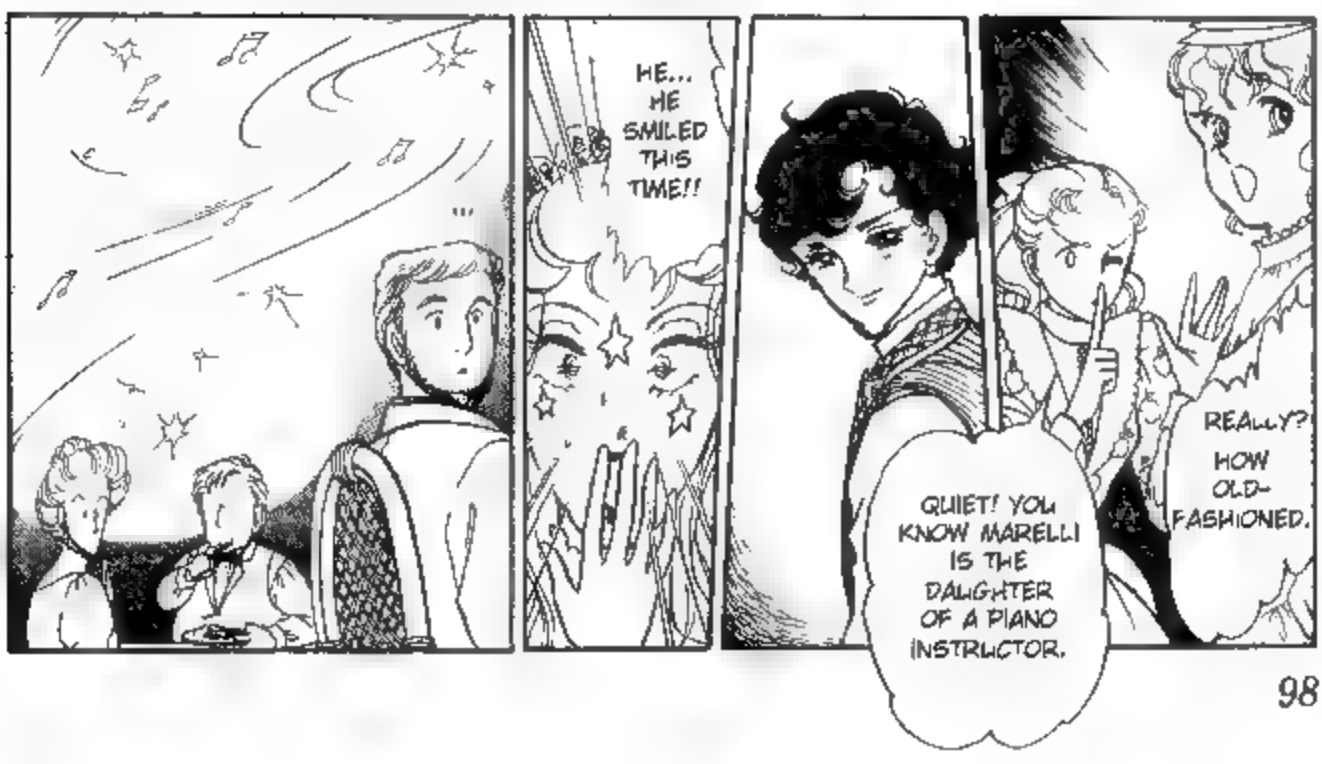

WILL YOU TAKE US THERE? WILL YOU?
OF COURSE! I COULD NEVER TIRE OF GOING THERE!


...I'D LIKE TO PUT IN A REQUEST.



KYAAA
MARELLI IS SO BOLD. WHAT DID SHE GIVE HIM!?
IT LOOKS LIKE A PAINTING WHEN THOSE TWO ARE TOGETHER!

SOME MOZART SONATAS.
FOR WHAT SONG !?
JUST A REQUEST
WHAT WAS IT, WHAT WAS IT!?
NO WAY!
HE LOOKED AT US!


HE... HE SMILED THIS TIME!!
QUIET! YOU KNOW MARELLI IS THE DAUGHTER OF A PIANO INSTRUCTOR.
REALLY? HOW OLD-FASHIONED.

MA...MARELLI, THIS IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE...
YOU'RE RIGHT THE SOUND IS SPARKLING.
AS EXPECTED
YES... THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED TO PLAY...
I FOUND HIM. "THE ONE THAT MUST PERFORM" THAT FATHER SPOKE ABOUT SO OFTEN.
MADOMOISELLE DORESTE
MARELLI DORESTE.
FORGIVE ME... BUT I CANNOT PLAY THE OTHER TWO SONGS.
THEY DO NOT SUIT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THIS PLACE
....I THANK YOU FOR YOUR REQUESTS.
MISS...
I REQUESTED 3 SONGS.
... HUH? WHY DID HE STOP?

...I SAY! I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME TEA WITH YOU LATER.
YOU HAVE MY GRAT-ITUDE
HE'S SO PRO-PER...!
I'M HONORED YOU ASKED, BUT I DON'T STOP WORKING UNTIL AFTER 11 PM.
SHE SMELLS NICE.
IT'S THE SMELL OF A WOMAN.
COME ...THIS WAY.
?

...WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME SERVE AT MY GARDEN PARTY?
I'LL GIVE YOU 50 JUST FOR SIT-TING
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT

YOU'LL BE OUT OF HERE IF YOU START SOMETHING LIKE LAST TIME AGAIN!
...DON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE.

WHY YOU ...!

.....
AND I STOP BY THIS BISTRO OFTEN.
I HAVE A LOT OF INFLUENCE IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD.

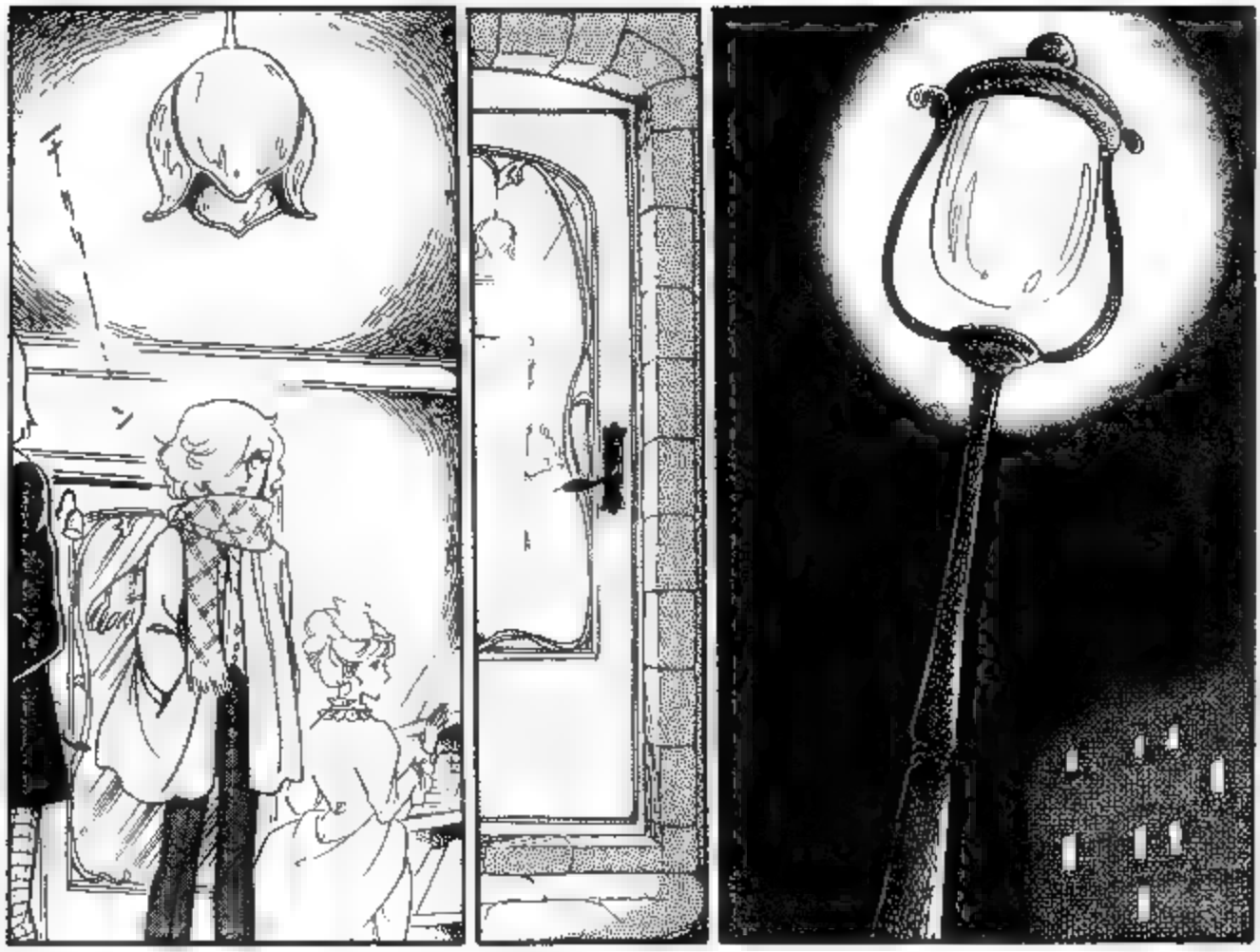
THANKS TO THESE MEN.
THIS TABLE .. IS HIDDEN FROM THE PUBLIC VIEW

YOU CAN'T BE-
LISTEN.

...WHY DOES THIS...

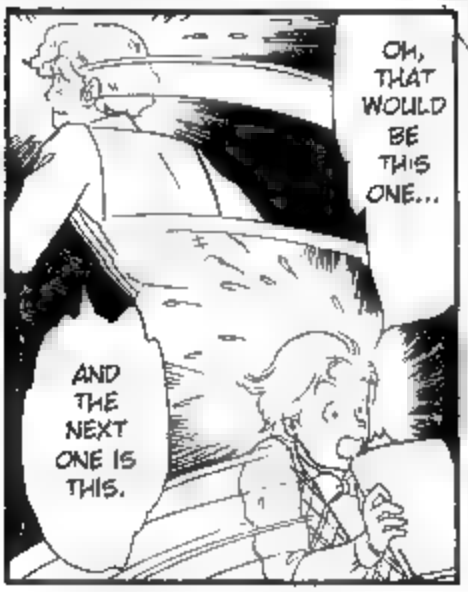
YOU WANT ME TO SAY IT AGAIN?
YOU CAN'T RE-FUSE ...!
I RE-FUSE!
SO... HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
IF YOU COME OVER, I'LL GIVE YOU 500.
... MANA-GER!
WHAT DID HE SAY?
.....!

WELL LISTEN!
I CAN IMAGINE WHAT HE SAID.
ARE YOU NOT GOING TO TELL ME?
BUT UNLIKE HIM, YOU ARE SELFISH!
... JUST LIKE WITH SERGE.
BUT, LET ME EXPLAIN. THERE ARE ENDLESS POSSI-BILITIES FOR YOU OUT THERE.
ALWAYS ...!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND IT?
I'LL JUST SAY THIS.
LIKE DARNINI SAID, THAT MAN CONTROLS ALL THE NIGHTLIFE ENTERTAINMENT IN THE AREA. IF YOU CAUSE TROUBLE, IT WON'T BE SAFE TO KEEP OUR BUSINESS OPEN ANYMORE.
WHY DOES THIS
.... ALWAYS
SO BE QUIET AND TAKE IT
HERE'S MONEY
DARNINI TOLD ME TO GIVE IT TO YOU



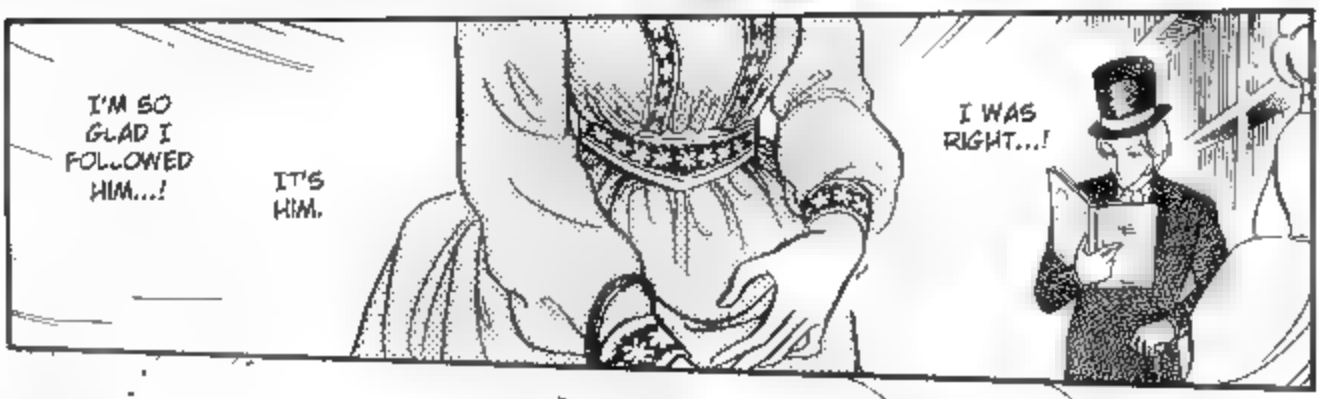
WELL? WHAT SONGS DO YOU WANT?
THAT MUCH !?
SUCH AN AMOUNT WOULD GET YOU 10 BOOKS!

WELCOME. ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MUSIC SHEETS?

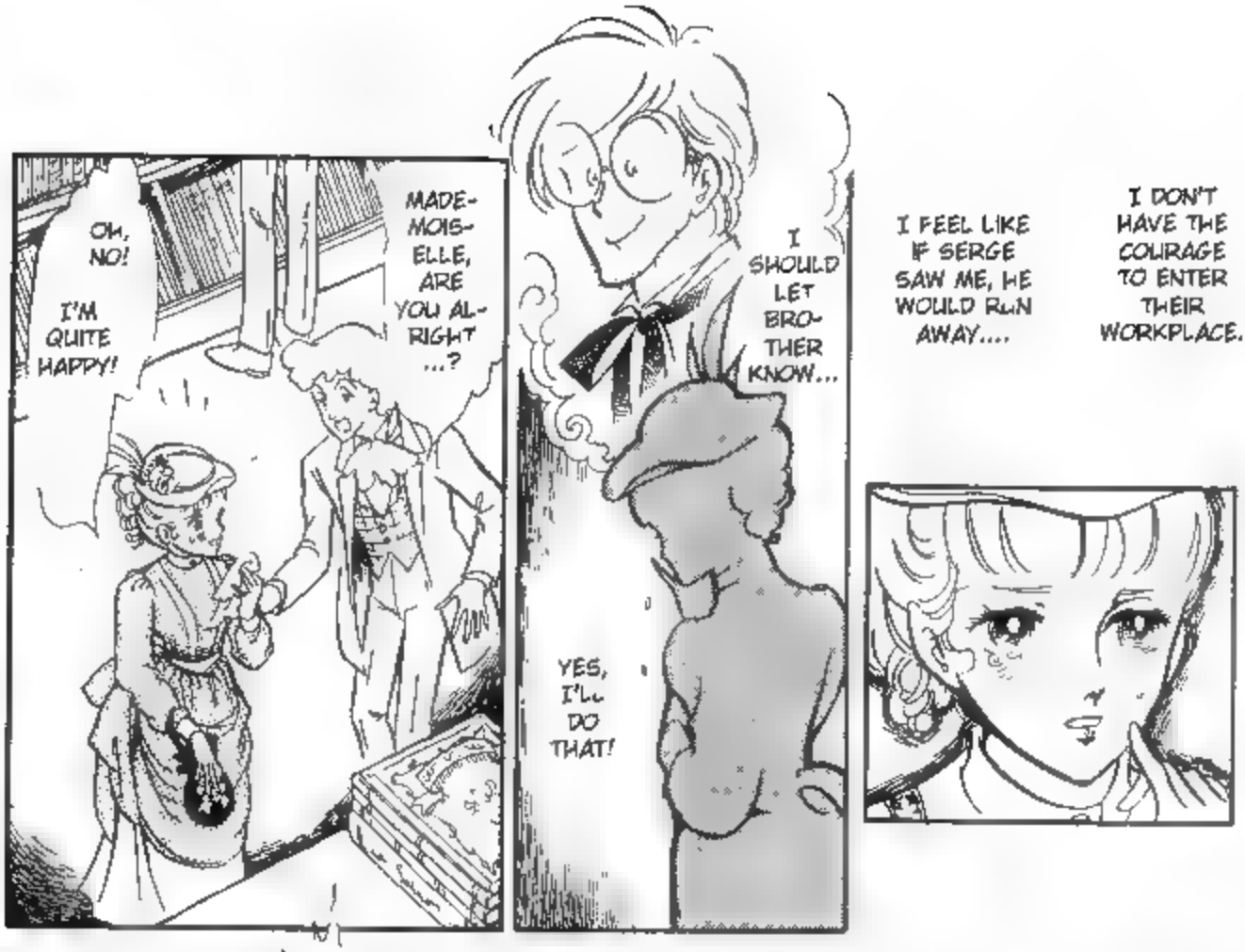

OH, THAT WOULD BE THIS ONE...
AND THE NEXT ONE IS THIS.

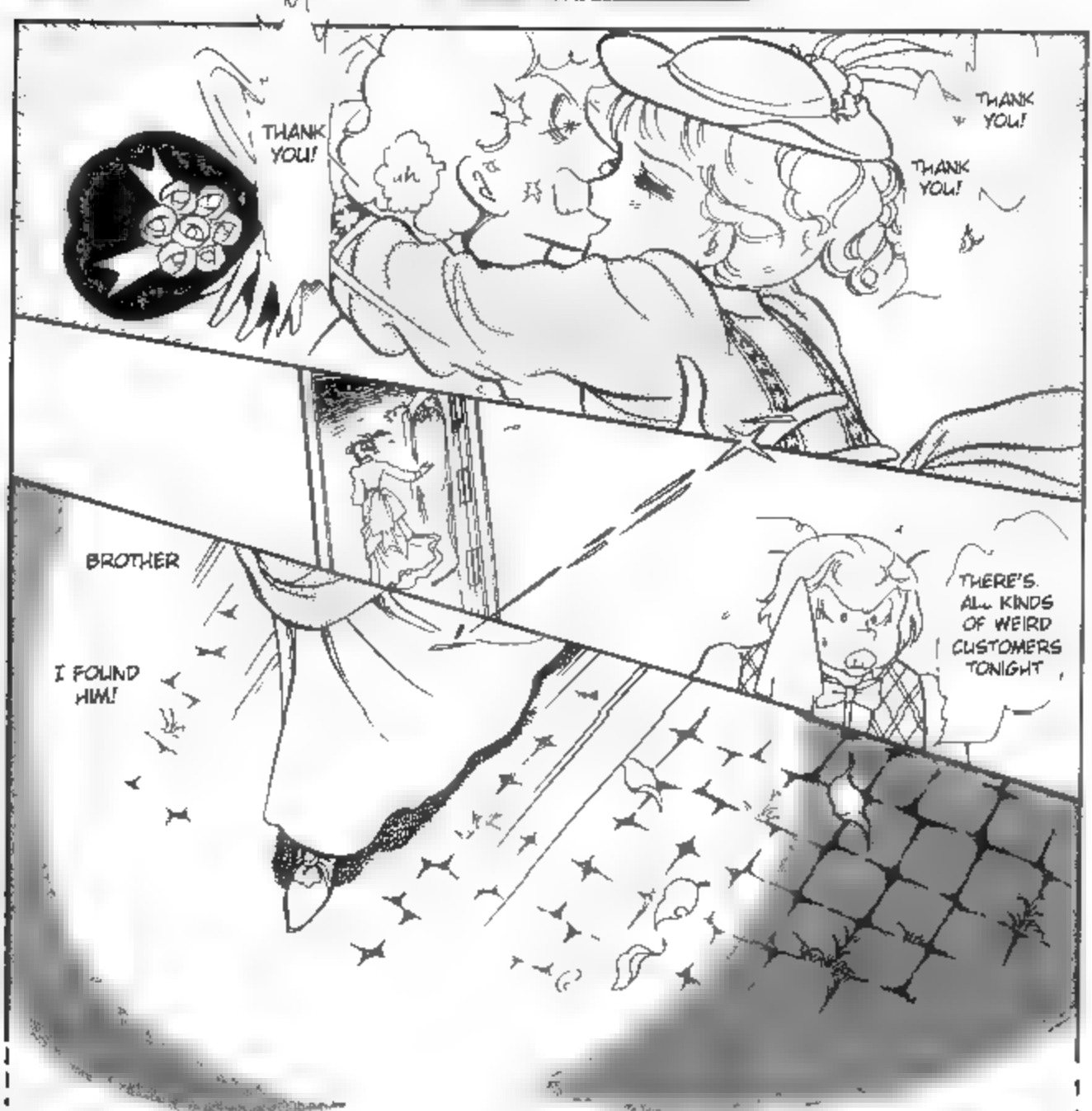
....I DON'T KNOW... THEIR NAMES.

MAYBE HE CAN'T TALK...
YOU IDIOT! THEN WHY CAN HE SING!?
WHAT'S WITH THAT BOY...!?
HE KNEW THOSE FAMOUS CLASSICAL SONGS SO CLEARLY
BUT HE WAS SO BEAU-TIFUL.
Hyup
ALRIGHT, THIS IS ALL OF THEM...


I'M SO GLAD I FOLLOWED HIM...!
IT'S HIM.
I WAS RIGHT...!

I HAD COME TO PARIS FOR ETIQUETTE COURSES...
TO THINK I WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET THEM...
GOD ...!
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THEM SO CLOSE...!


OH, NO!
I'M QUITE HAPPY!
MADEMOISELLE, ARE YOU ALRIGHT ...?
I SHOULD LET BROTHER KNOW...
YES, I'LL DO THAT!
I FEEL LIKE IF SERGE SAW ME, HE WOULD RUN AWAY....
I DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO ENTER THEIR WORKPLACE.


THANK YOU!
uh
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
BROTHER
I FOUND HIM!
THERE'S ALL KINDS OF WEIRD CUSTOMERS TONIGHT

I,
WILL CATCH HIM...
....HE MAY HAVE FLOWN AWAY,
BUT I WILL CATCH HIM!
I GOT A LARGE TIP...
THEY'RE FOR YOU.
... ARE THOSE NEW MUSIC BOOKS?
THIS...

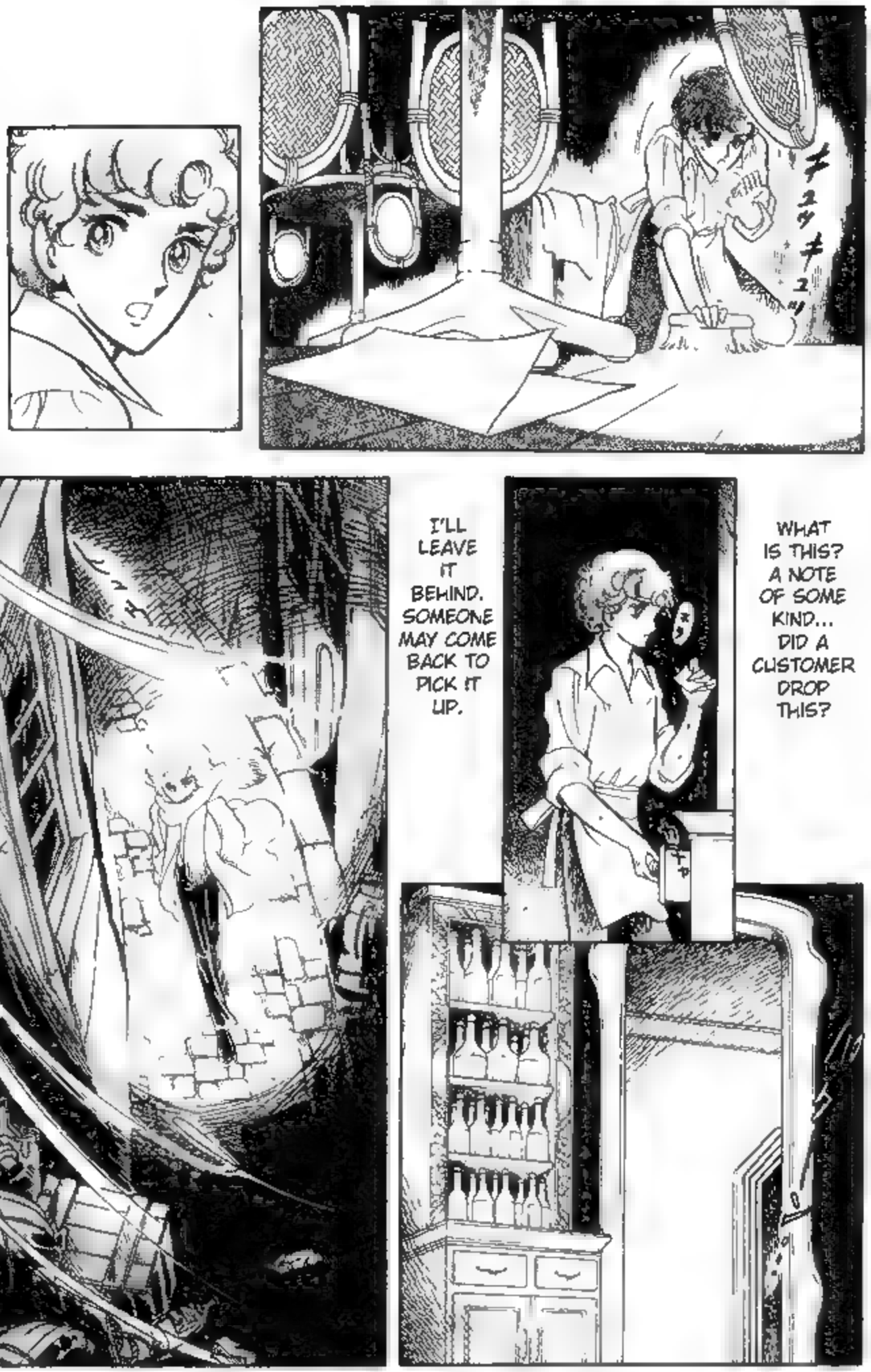
DON'T SAY
ANY-THING
MAYBE GET SOME NEW SHOES NEXT TI-...
THANK YOU, GIL-BERT.
I'M HAPPY ...BUT,
ANY-THING ...
THANK YOU...
... THEY'RE ALL MY FAVO-RITE SONGS ...
YOU RE-MEM-BERED.

I'M GLAD, SERGE ...
THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO QUIT YOUR OTHER JOB AND AND COME HERE IN THE MORNING
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.
THE TRUTH IS... I BROUGHT MY FATHER HERE.
SO HE COULD LISTEN TO YOUR PIANO.
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
HE WON THE PARIS PIANO COMPETITION A LONG TIME AGO.
FATHER IS A PIANO INSTRUCTOR, GEORGE DORESTE
WITH JUST A NAME, I..
RIGHT NOW HE'S AN INSTRUCTOR IN THE LOWER QUARTER, BUT HE ONCE TAUGHT A DAUGHTER OF NOBILITY.
MY FATHER ...
HE WOULD LIKE IT IF YOU HELPED OUT AS HIS ASSISTANT .... THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RESPOND RIGHT AWAY.

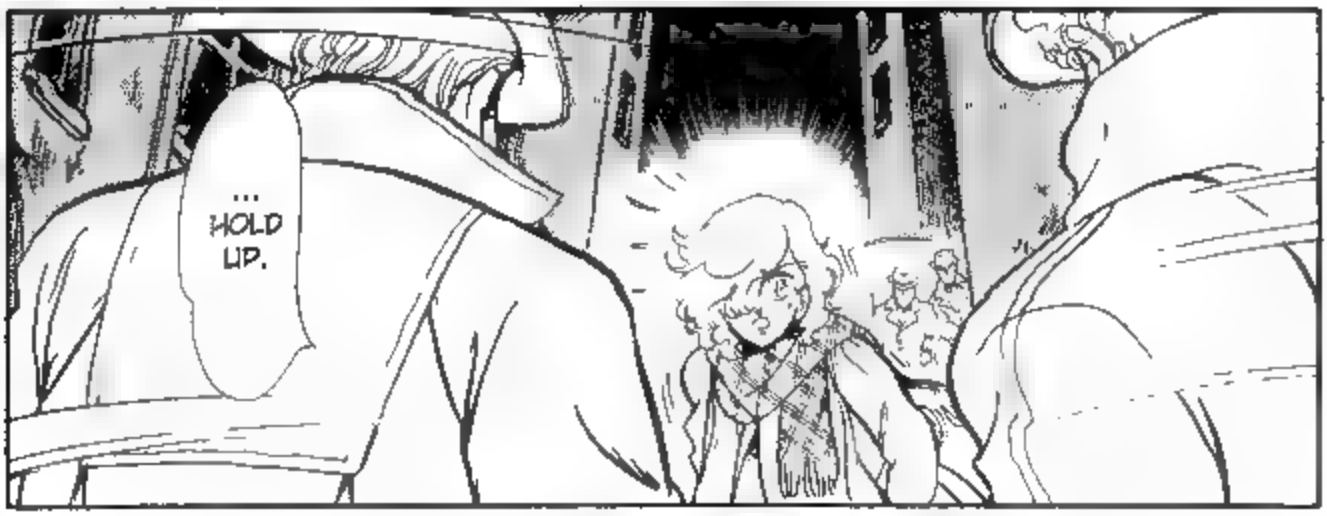
IT'S ALL COMING TOGE-THER.
... YES.
YOU CAN'T RE-FUSE!
MISS MARELLI!
I WANT YOU TO COME TO MY PLACE FOR SOME TEA!
3 IN THE AFTERNOON ON THE TENTH! FOR JUST AN HOUR. I ALREADY TALKED TO YOUR MANAGER ABOUT BORROWING YOU.
EVER SINCE GILBERT MADE ME
TAKE THOSE MUSIC SHEETS ...
... FOR YOUR COM-PANY.
HE IS CALLING UPON YOU.
GIL-BERT!
THAT CUSTOMER IS HERE.

... YOU'RE FINALLY HERE.
... HEH HEH.
I LOVE THAT ATTI-TUDE.
WHEN WORK IS OVER TONIGHT, COME TO THE PLACE LISTED ON THIS PAPER.
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO ...

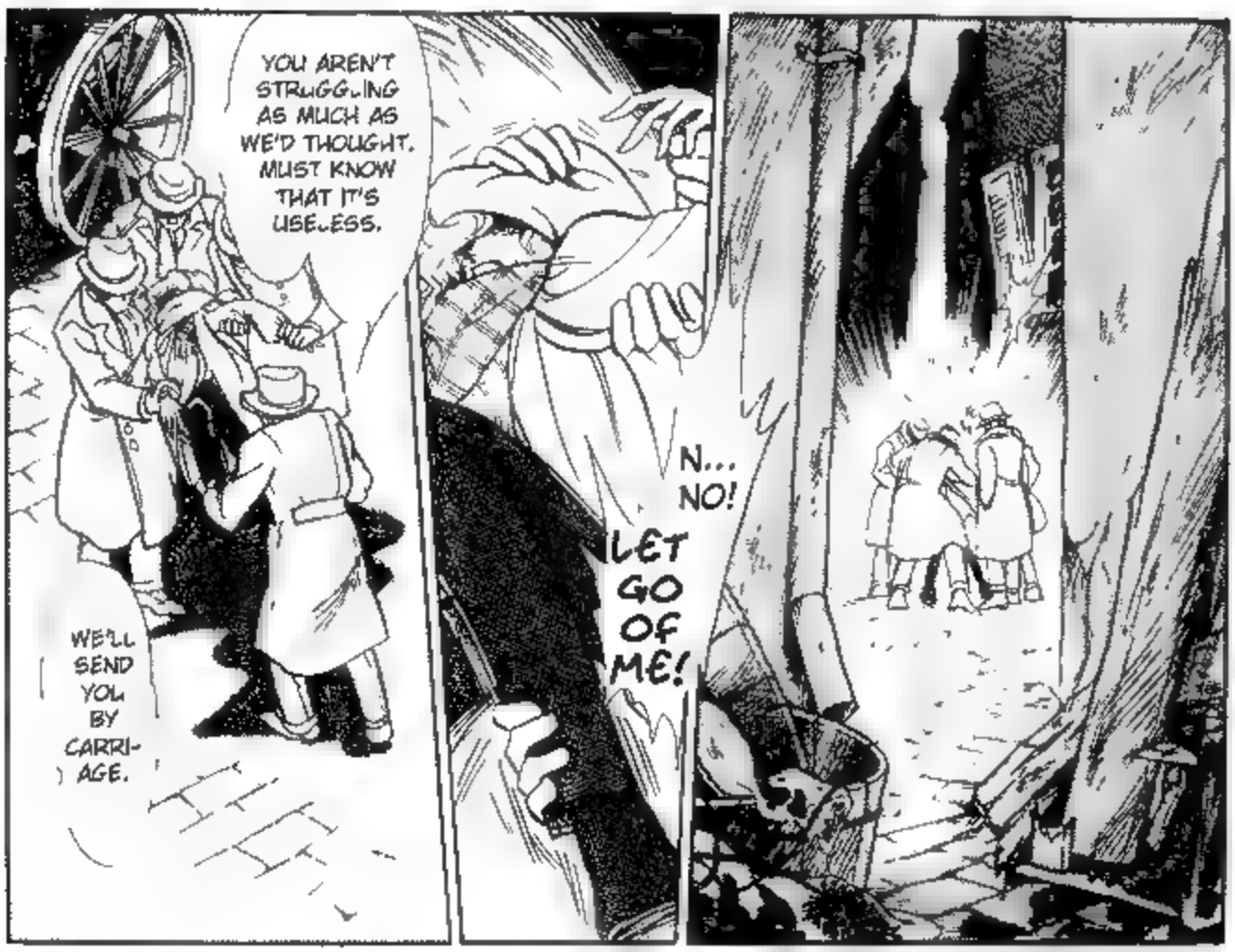
GIL-BERT ...?
.....
YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND GET SOME REST. I STILL HAVE SOME WORK TO DO.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T WANNA GO HOME?
...MM. OK... I'M GOING.
?


I'LL LEAVE IT BEHIND. SOMEONE MAY COME BACK TO PICK IT UP.
WHAT IS THIS? A NOTE OF SOME KIND... DID A CUSTOMER DROP THIS?

TCH ...
I KNEW IT! THOSE MEN MUST BE.
... THEY'RE CHASING ME!
HIS...
JUST DROP BY MY PLACE WHEN YOU'RE FREE... OK?
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T BITE.


... HOLD UP.

THE BOSS IS WAITING... SHALL WE SHOW YOU THE WAY?
YOU DON'T WANNA GO STRAIGHT.
THIS IS THE WRONG WAY TO THE PLACE OUR BOSS TOLD YOU TO GO, BOY.


YOU AREN'T STRUGGLING AS MUCH AS WE'D THOUGHT. MUST KNOW THAT IT'S USELESS.
WE'LL SEND YOU BY CARRI-AGE.
N... NO!
LET GO OF ME!

Such a cute girl, your lover
Go now She's waiting
She'll be bought if you don't go get her soon
T-T-T- Trulala
Your girl was standing on the Pont des Artes
YEAH, I'VE BEEN WRITING IT. ARE YOU DONE?
... HM?
HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING? WRITE IT DOWN.

HMM?
IT'S BECAUSE YOUR PRETTY PARTNER ISN'T HERE!
IT'S BEEN TWO HOURS SINCE HE LEFT...
.... GILBERT... HE STILL HASN'T COME BACK YET.
DO YOU KNOW WHY, SERGE?
I'M IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY.
I CAN SING FOR HOW-EVER LONG YOU WANT.

...YOU KNOW, I CAN TELL.
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THAT BOY. JUST LIKE ALWAYS!
IS HE THAT IMPORTANT?
CAMILLE, I CAN'T WRITE WITH YOU ON ME. HERE...
SING THE NEXT ONE.
I'M A WOMAN ...
AND I CAN LOVE YOU LIKE ONE...
CAMILLE!
...SERGE ...I LIKE YOU...
... SURELY YOU KNOW

I'M 12
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW OLD YOU ARE!?
... STOP THIS!
...THIS ISN'T A GOOD TIME OR PLACE. YOU'LL JUST BECOME TAINTED.
GIRLS SHOULDN'T BE ASKING BOYS OUT AND...
... OH, SO THIS IS JUST THE WRONG TIME!?
WHAT ARE YOU ACTING SO HOLIER THAN THOU FOR!? I SHOULDN'T BE HEARING THIS FROM A DROPOUT!
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS!
IDIOT!!

...INCA-PABLE OF LOVING WOMEN ...
ア ウ!
バン!
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE INCAPABLE OF LOVING WOMEN!
YOU BOYS ARE JUST PLAIN STRANGE!
...I'M GOING HOME!

...IT'S ALREADY 2....
GIL-BERT ...!
HE SAID SOME-THING... AND THEN...?
SOME-THING WAS OFF, ... WHEN HE LEFT.
...IF SO, THEN,
DID GILBERT DROP IT ON PURPOSE!?
... THAT PIECE OF PAPER!
WHAT WAS IT!?
ARGH, I CAN'T REMEMBER!
SOMETHING WAS WRITTEN ON IT.

WHATEVER IT WAS, I HAVE TO LOOK FOR HIM!
HE MIGHT'VE EVEN COME BACK TO GET IT ALREADY.
NO, IT WASN'T THAT!
LOU D'ARGENT? LOU ~ CONTOU ....
IT WAS THE NAME OF A STORE
I THOUGHT IT WAS A CUSTOMER'S...
I DIDN'T LOOK AT IT THAT CLOSELY
DID AUGUSTE ...COME TO PICK HIM UP?
NO, IT CAN'T BE THAT!
IF THAT WAS THE CASE, HE WOULDN'T KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOING ON?
DID SOMEONE COLLAPSE?
GILBERT!
IS THAT YOU, GILBERT!?

...OK
LIE DOWN NOW.
GIL-BERT ...
TO THE BED, GIL-BERT.
HIS BODY IS COLD.
IT'S LIKE HE'S DEAD...
THEY'RE FROM ROPES ...!
THESE WOUNDS ...

IT'S LIKE HOW ADAM...
WOULD PLAY WITH HIM.
SOME-ONE DID THIS...!
SO CRUEL ...!
IT'S LIKE THEY TRULY ENJOYED... CAUSING THESE WOUNDS TO HIM.
NO, WHOEVER DID THIS IS AN EVEN WORSE SADIST...
GIL-BERT!
DO YOU PLAN ON JUST LETTING THIS SLIDE!?
GIL-BERT... PLEASE TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
THIS IS WORSE THAN I COULD EVER IMAGINE

WHO WAS IT?
WHAT DID THEY DO!?
I DEMAND TO KNOW!
GIL-BERT!
HOLD ME...
SO COLD ...
IT'S COLD.
I'M JUST GLAD I WAS ABLE TO NOTICE IT...!
...JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED WITH ADAM.
NO. GILBERT WOULD NEVER SAY ANY-THING.
... WHY DIDN'T HE SAY ANY-THING?
IF HE JUST TALKED TO ME EARLIER, WE COULD'VE GONE HOME TOGETHER.

...SO, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT SO EAGERLY?
NO... SIR.
... LAST NIGHT, GIL-BERT,
WAS KIDNAPPED BY A CUSTOMER OF THIS PLACE AND TORTURED.
DO YOU WANT YOUR PAY RAISED?
...HA! WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? WHAT CUSTOMERS DO ONCE THE BISTRO CLOSES IS NONE OF MY CONCERN...
...HE WON'T TELL ME WHO DID IT.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?
... AND?

YOU SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THIS.
IF YOU DON'T TELL ME, I'LL GO TO THE PLACE WRITTEN ON THIS PAPER...
AND ASK THEM DIRECTLY!
...YOU FOOL! DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF PLACE THAT IS!?
THAT'S A HOT-SPOT FOR THUGS!!

WAIT. I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU
THERE'S A MAN NAMED DARNINI... HE CONTROLS THIS AREA... IF ONE ATTRACTS HIS INTEREST, THEN THAT'S JUST BAD LUCK.

GILBERT ...WAS TAKEN THERE, THEN.
...AND CAME BACK ONLY AFTER BEING TORTURED IN BODY AND SOUL!

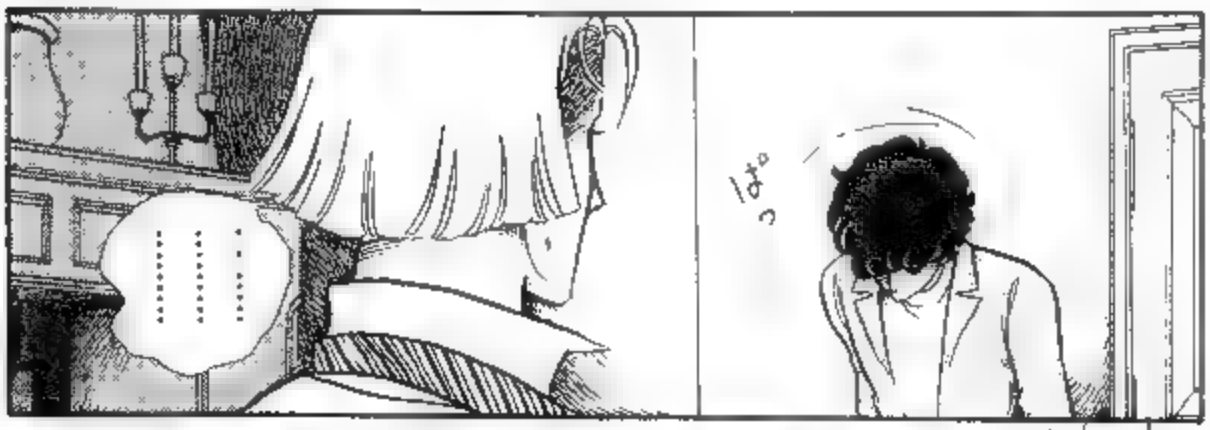
BAD LUCK!
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL IT!?
...
THAT'S HOW HE WANTS IT.
THAT CHILD... GILBERT IS DESTINED TO END UP IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

WELL FROM NOW ON, HE AND I BOTH QUIT.
... THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR US!

SO YOU HAVE TO BE AS SCHEMING AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE?
THAT SEEMS TO BE YOUR OUTLOOK ON LIFE.

IT'S JUST A PART OF DOING BUSINESS HERE.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT SO CALMLY!


.....

SLAM!
YOU'VE GOT A HARD FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU NAIVE BOY.
SERGE!

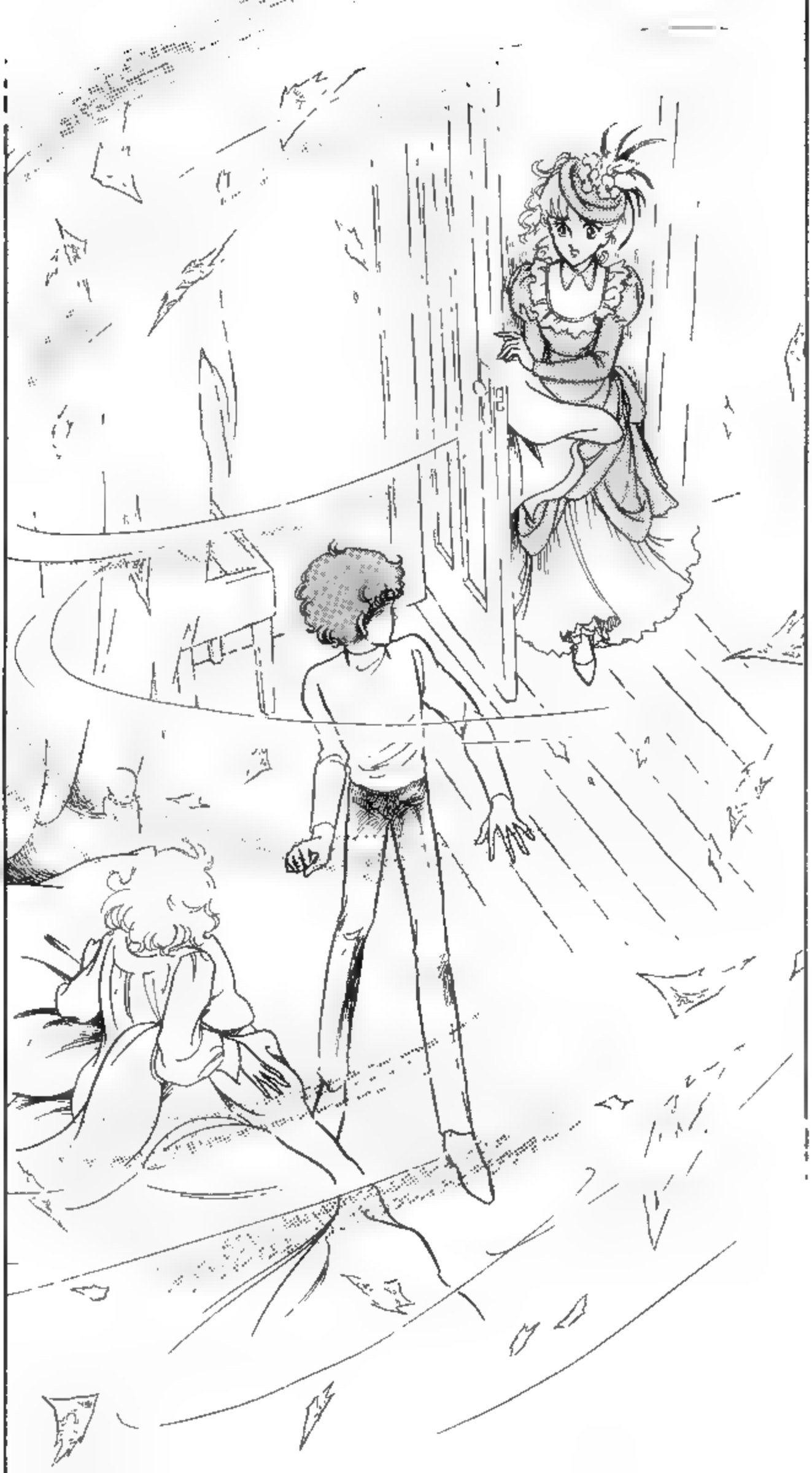
THAT BOY WILL ALWAYS BE IN DANGER!
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NOW? THERE WILL ALWAYS BE MEN LIKE HIM WHEREVER YOU GO!
I THINK THAT WILL DEPEND ON OUR EMPLOYER ...GOOD BYE.

BACK ALREADY?
DID YOU GET PUT ON BREAK?
I'VE QUIT WORKING AT THAT PLACE!
LET'S FOCUS ON THE BRIGHT SIDE.
DON'T WORRY.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PLACES TO WORK.

DON'T TELL ME YOU STILL... WANT TO WORK WITH THAT MAN!?
WHY DID YOU QUIT ...?
I'LL NOT LEAVE YOU WITH CUSTOMERS LIKE THAT.
SO I SIMPLY SAID GOODBYE!
HE THINKS IT'S INEVITABLE THAT YOU END UP IN THE HANDS OF SOMEONE LIKE DARNINI.
SERGE
...LOOK IN...THE POCKET OF MY JACKET...
... THIS ISN'T WORTH GETTING UP OVER.
LIE BACK DOWN...

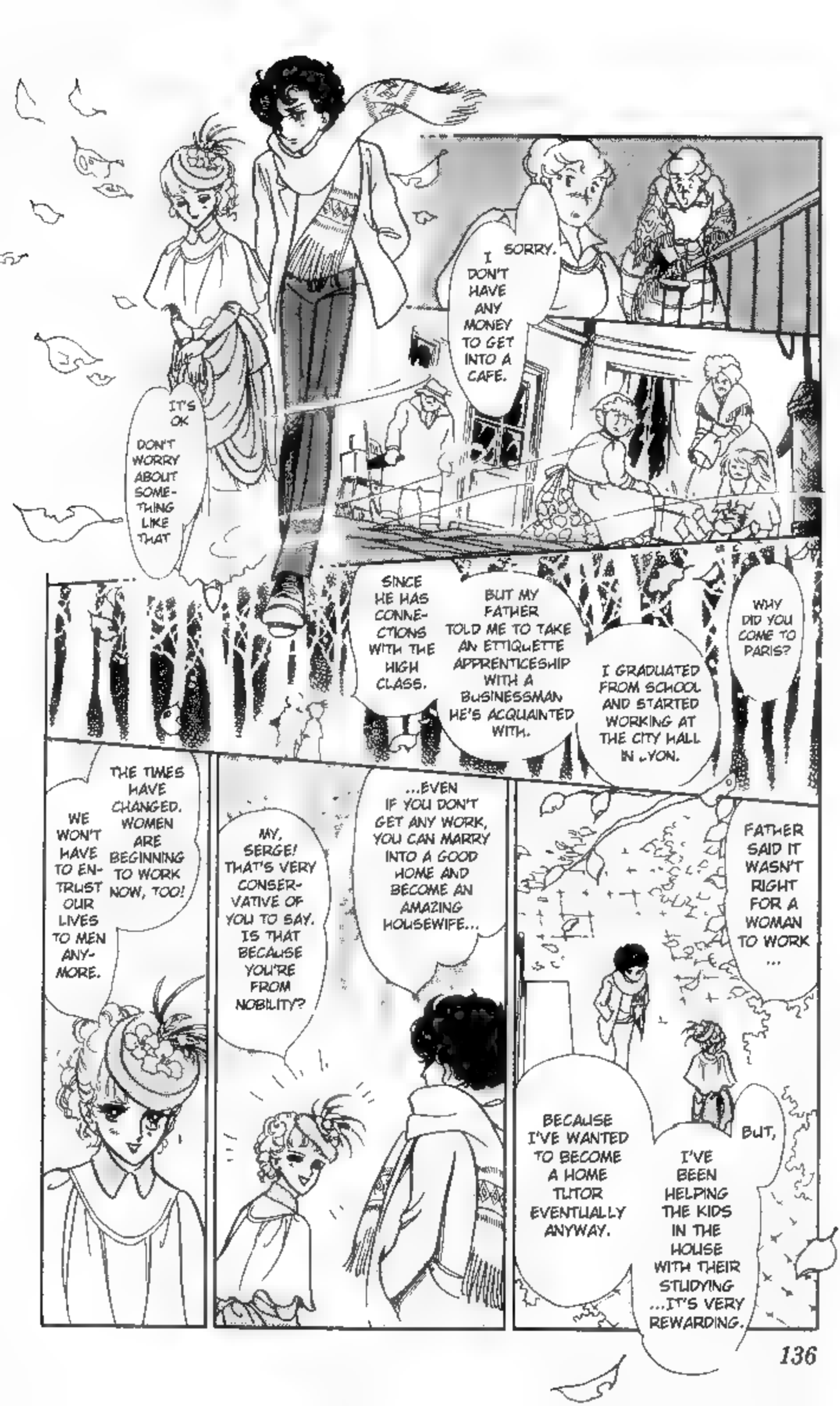
...BACK THEN, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY STRENGTH OR WILL-POWER.
DARNIN! PUT IT IN THERE.
GIL-BERT! IS THIS...?
BUT THIS TIME...
I WAS ABLE TO BE... A LITTLE USEFUL.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW I FEEL ABOUT IT... SOMEONE ELSE WILL DECIDE IT FOR ME.
YES ...
...BE-CAUSE, HE'S RIGHT.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS !?
DO YOU INTEND TO BE THE KIND OF PERSON THE MANAGER SAID YOU WOULD BE!?

I WON'T ALLOW IT!
NEVER AGAIN... I NEVER WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT AGAIN!



PATRICIA ...
I... I'M SORRY!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO JUST BARGE IN....
I TALKED TO YOUR MANAGER ...AND HE SAID YOU QUIT THIS MORNING...
I WAS SCARED THAT MAYBE YOU TWO HAD MOVED OUT.
THIS ISN'T A PLACE WHERE YOU SHOULD BE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...HERE OF ALL PLACES!
PATRICIA!
... I'VE SEARCHED ALL OVER ...
I ASKED EVERYONE I MET. AND I FINALLY FOUND YOU...

DON'T TALK ANY-WHERE NEAR ME!
THAT'S RIGHT. GO TALK OUT-SIDE!
I'M TRULY SORRY FOR MY ACTIONS ...PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
THERE'S ABSO-LUTELY NO EXCUSE I CAN MAKE.
I'M SORRY GIL-BERT.
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO WAIT
SURROUNDED BY THIS FILTHY MONEY...
I'LL BE BACK BY SUNSET.
LET'S TALK LATER, GILBERT.
...LATER
LATER ...!
LATER


IT'S OK
DON'T WORRY ABOUT SOME-THING LIKE THAT
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO GET INTO A CAFE.
SORRY.
SINCE HE HAS CONNE-CTIONS WITH THE HIGH CLASS.
BUT MY FATHER TOLD ME TO TAKE AN ETTIQUETTE APPRENTICESHIP WITH A BUSINESSMAN HE'S ACQUAINTED WITH.
I GRADUATED FROM SCHOOL AND STARTED WORKING AT THE CITY HALL IN LYON.
WHY DID YOU COME TO PARIS?
WE WON'T HAVE TO EN-TRUST OUR LIVES TO MEN ANY-MORE.
THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED. WOMEN ARE BEGINNING TO WORK NOW, TOO!
MY, SERGE! THAT'S VERY CONSER-VATIVE OF YOU TO SAY. IS THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE FROM NOBILITY?
...EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET ANY WORK, YOU CAN MARRY INTO A GOOD HOME AND BECOME AN AMAZING HOUSEWIFE...
FATHER SAID IT WASN'T RIGHT FOR A WOMAN TO WORK ...
BECAUSE I'VE WANTED TO BECOME A HOME TUTOR EVENTUALLY ANYWAY.
BUT, I'VE BEEN HELPING THE KIDS IN THE HOUSE WITH THEIR STUDYING ...IT'S VERY REWARDING.

YOU CAN PLACE YOURSELF AT THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE!
AFTER ALL, IN THIS WORLD NOW,
EVEN IF WE SUFFER TRAGEDIES AND LOSE OUR LOVED ONES, IF WE HAVE A JOB WE CAN STILL LIVE.
JUST THINK OF HOW MUCH WE CAN TRULY SHINE AS HUMANS THIS WAY...!
CAN YOU TRY TO SEE IT LIKE I DO?
THERE'S NOTHING SHAMEFUL ABOUT WORKING.
PAT...!
SERGE... YOUR MOTHER WAS A BRAVE WOMAN TO LIVE AS SHE DID!
THE ERA WHERE WOMEN CAN'T SURVIVE IF THEY LOSE THEIR SOCIAL STATUS IS OVER!
BUT... IT'S AN AMAZING CAREER THAT FACES SOCIETY HEAD ON...
I KNOW IT'S VERY BRAZEN OF ME. IT'S A HARD JOB, EVEN FOR MEN.
I...
...I
I WANT TO BE A NEWS JOURNALIST.
OF COURSE
...TRY NOT TO BE TOO SHOCKED, OK?
TO BE HONEST... I HAVE ANOTHER SECRET GOAL OF MINE.

YOU WANT TO TAKE OFF, SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING...
...I UNDERSTAND, PATRICIA.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE OTHER THAN MY BROTHER THAT I'VE WANTED TO TELL.
... IT'S EMBARRASSING.
BACK THEN, I REMEMBER YOU WERE THE TYPE TO GET SO NERVOUS AND HIDE YOURSELF.
DO I LOOK TO YOU NOW?
...HOW ....
BECAUSE OF YOU!
YES, SERGE, I'VE TAKEN FLIGHT...
I'M SO HAPPY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
.... THANK YOU.
...A REFRESHING WHITE...
LIKE A SWAN WHO'S JUST GROWN HER NEW WHITE FEATHERS.
... VERY PRETTY.

... WELL ...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SERGE?
.... ME?
... I...
QUIT THAT JOB I HAD, AND...
... WOW!
REALLY!?
...I'M HOPING TO BE A PIANO TEACHER.
OHH!
THAT'S THE PERFECT JOB FOR YOU! THAT'S WONDERFUL!
IT'LL LET YOU PLAY THE PIANO MORE THAN ANY OTHER JOB!
MAKE SURE YOU KEEP YOUR HANDS IN GOOD CONDI-TION...!
I'm making it sound a lot better than it is.
... YES.
THERE'S THIS MAN WHO USED TO BE A FAMOUS TEACHER, AND HE WANTED AN ASSIS-TANT...
SO I THOUGHT I WOULD GIVE IT A SHOT

PAT!
W... WAIT ...
PAT ...
PAT ...
PA-TRI-CIA!
BUT, YOU TALKED TO ME... LIKE NOTHING HAD CHANGED.
I WAS PREPARED FOR HOW-EVER YOU'D REACT, AND IT'S OUT OF MY CONTROL.
I KNOW IT'S QUITE RUDE, BUT...
YOU WOULD RUN AWAY ...
I THOUGHT IF I ASKED ABOUT YOU,
THAT'S WHY I JUST TALKED ABOUT MYSELF ...
... I WAS SO SCARED ...

IF YOU DIDN'T COME IN WHEN YOU DID, I WOULD'VE GOTTEN INTO A HUGE FIGHT WITH GILBERT.
IT'S NO TROUBLE FOR ME, PATRICIA.
I SHOULD BE THE ONE THANKING YOU.
I'M SO HAPPY ... THANK YOU.
IT WOULDN'T FEEL RIGHT TO HAVE YOU COME TO MY ROOM.
OF COURSE ...BUT,
WILL WE ...
MEET UP AGAIN?
... YES!
ONCE A MONTH, AT THAT GAZEBO.
THEN LET'S MEET HERE.
AND I CAN'T HAVE A MAN VISITING ME WHERE I LIVE.

ヒソヒソ
*WHISPERING
ヒソヒソ

HE LOOKS LIKE A FALLEN ARISTOCRAT!
AND THERE'S THAT OTHER STUCK UP BOY, TOO.
HOW COULD HE HAVE SUCH A LOVELY LADY VISIT HIM TO GO ON A DATE?
JUST WHO IS THAT BOY?

...MY, THAT WAS FAST. YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN YOUR TIME!
CA-MIL-LE!?

SHE DOES, THOUGH!
I WAS THE ONE THAT TOLD HER YOUR ROOM!
THERE'D BE NO POINT IN TELLING YOU.
SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
WHO WAS THAT?
THAT GIRL!?
THANK YOU.
BUT I STILL CAN'T TELL YOU.
SHE'S THE YOUNGER SISTER OF A FRIEND FROM SCHOOL.
WHY!? WHY CAN'T YOU TELL ME!?
AM I TOO LOW-BORN FOR YOU TO TELL ME!?
HA!
KEEP UP THE CONCEITED ACT!
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT YOU'VE REDUCED YOURSELF TO LIVING IN THIS HOLE!
GEEZ, FIRST THIS...
AND NOW...
THERE'LL BE GILBERT, TOO?

DID YOU AND YOUR GIRL-FRIEND... HAVE FUN HUGGING IN THE PARK?
WEL-COME HOME!
WHERE DID YOU GET... THAT ALCOHOL!?
I BOUGHT IT WITH THE MONEY THAT WAS LEFT OVER. AND MAYBE WITH A KISS, TOO...!
IT'S TOO BAD. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR PAST SELF, BUT...
SHE'S WAY OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE NOW...
SHE'S BECOME ...QUITE PRETTY.
...I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT RIGHT NOW, GILBERT.
I DO, THOUGH.

...STOP THIS!
WE DON'T EVEN HAVE THAT KIND OF...
BUT THAT'S A HUGE PROBLEM FROM A RELATIONSHIP STANDPOINT!
...HAVE YOU REALLY NOT THOUGHT ABOUT THAT?
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT SCHOOL.
...YOU WOULD'VE BEEN THE VISCOUNT BATTOUR.
AND I... WOULD STILL BE WITH AUGU.
GILBERT!
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT...!
I KNOW THIS, BUT...
OF COURSE.
...NO ONE UNDERSTANDS ME LIKE HE DOES.
...YOU REALLY WISH YOU NEVER LEFT HIM?
I KNOW HE'S LYING.

THEN DON'T MAKE ME FEEL LIKE THIS!
YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T FORGIVE ME, RIGHT? IF I SOLD MY BODY AGAIN, YOU WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME!?
HOW FAR DID YOU GO?
NOW THEN! LET'S CONTINUE WHERE WE LEFT OFF!
STOP!
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE! TALKING TO ME LIKE THAT!
GIL-BERT!

YOU HAVE NO MONEY AND NO STATUS, YET YOU STOLE ME FROM ALGU...
YOU MUST THINK PRETTY HIGHLY OF YOUR-SELF,
MUTT!
AH ...!
HEY, SERGE. IF ALL YOU CARE ABOUT... IS BEING TOGETHER SKIN-TO-SKIN,
THIS SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH ...DON'T YOU THINK SO?
SERGE
STO ...

SERGE
MY WOUNDS ...
IT HURTS ....

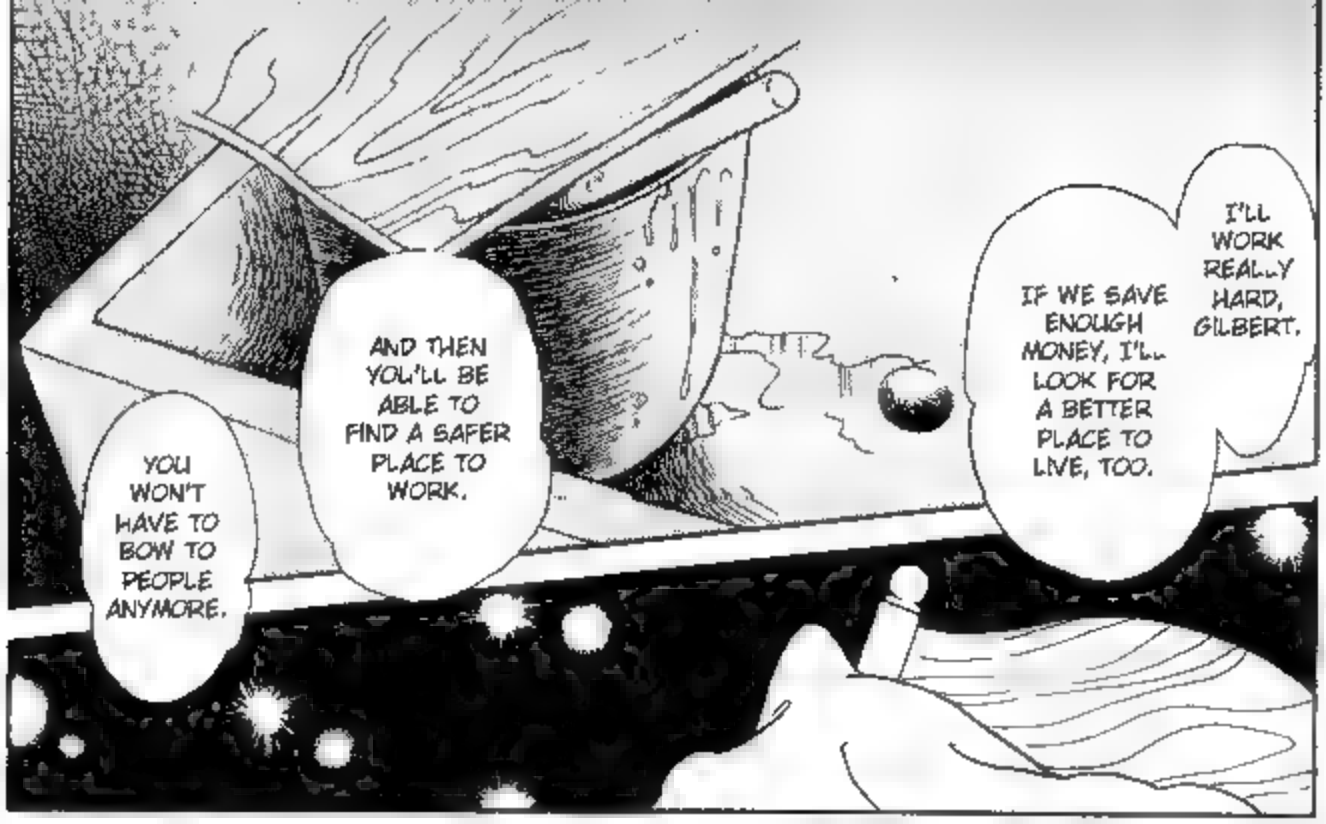
....EVEN THOUGH HE WAS WOUNDED, I HELD HIM WITH ALL MY STRENGTH...
...I LOVE YOU. ... MORE THAN ANY-ONE ...
SERGE ...
UGH ...

WHY ...
DOES IT HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS..!?

GIL-BERT! IT'S ALL OK NOW!
I GOT ACCEPTED!
GIL-BERT!
NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO BUY YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT FROM NOW ON!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY!

IS YOUR DREAM TO BE A PIANO TUTOR IN THE SLUMS FOREVER?
... DON'T ACT SO PROUD
EVEN THOUGH I COULD USE MORE PRACTICE, I WAS TOLD THAT I HAVE POTENTIAL!
MOST LIKELY LESSONS FOR TALENTLESS DAUGHTERS OF LIQUOR STORES.
SO A BUNCH OF CRY-BABIES, HUH?
MY JOB WILL BE TO WATCH OVER THE LESSONS FOR DORESTE'S MANY STUDENTS...
THIS IS A FAMOUS TEACHER THAT ONCE PLACED AT THE PIANO CONTEST LONG AGO!
I'M ONLY SPEAKING THE TRUTH.
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU..
YOU ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING BAD TO SAY
TO BE ABLE TO FEEL A PIANO ALL DAY!
...THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR ME!
YEAH
BUT, DURING ANY FREE TIME, I'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO AS MUCH AS I WANT.

...SO HE'S TELLING ME TO STAY AT HOME ALL DAY AGAIN.
.....
I'LL BE ABLE TO BUY NEW CLOTHES, AND SOME CUR-TAINS.
WHICH MEANS YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK FOR A NEW JOB.
ANY-WAY MONEY WON'T BE AN ISSUE ANYMORE.
I'LL BE MAKING TWICE WHAT BOTH OF US MADE COMBINED BEFORE!
SORRY, BUT THAT MIGHT BE A BIT TOO LUXURIOUS FOR NOW.
WHAT DO YOU NEED THOSE FOR? DO YOU PLAN ON GOING TO SOME DANCE PARTIES?
DO YOU THINK... YOU COULD BUY SOME SHOES... MADE OF LAMBSKIN?
...I DON'T NEED THEM.
DO YOU REALLY WANT THEM THAT MUCH?
We could buy a heater with that money. Our water is starting to get cold.
BUT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, I GUESS WE COULD AFFORD IT AFTER SAVING UP FOR TWO MONTHS.
one, two, three


YOU WON'T HAVE TO BOW TO PEOPLE ANYMORE.
AND THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND A SAFER PLACE TO WORK.
IF WE SAVE ENOUGH MONEY, I'LL LOOK FOR A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, TOO.
I'LL WORK REALLY HARD, GILBERT.

SERGE

WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO OUT... TO EAT

AND IT'S OK IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WORK THEN
I'LL EARN ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US.

YOU'VE ONLY BEEN WITH ME FOR FOUR HOURS TODAY...
SERGE ...
YOU'RE SO CRUEL, SERGE.
GOING TO SLEEP ME.

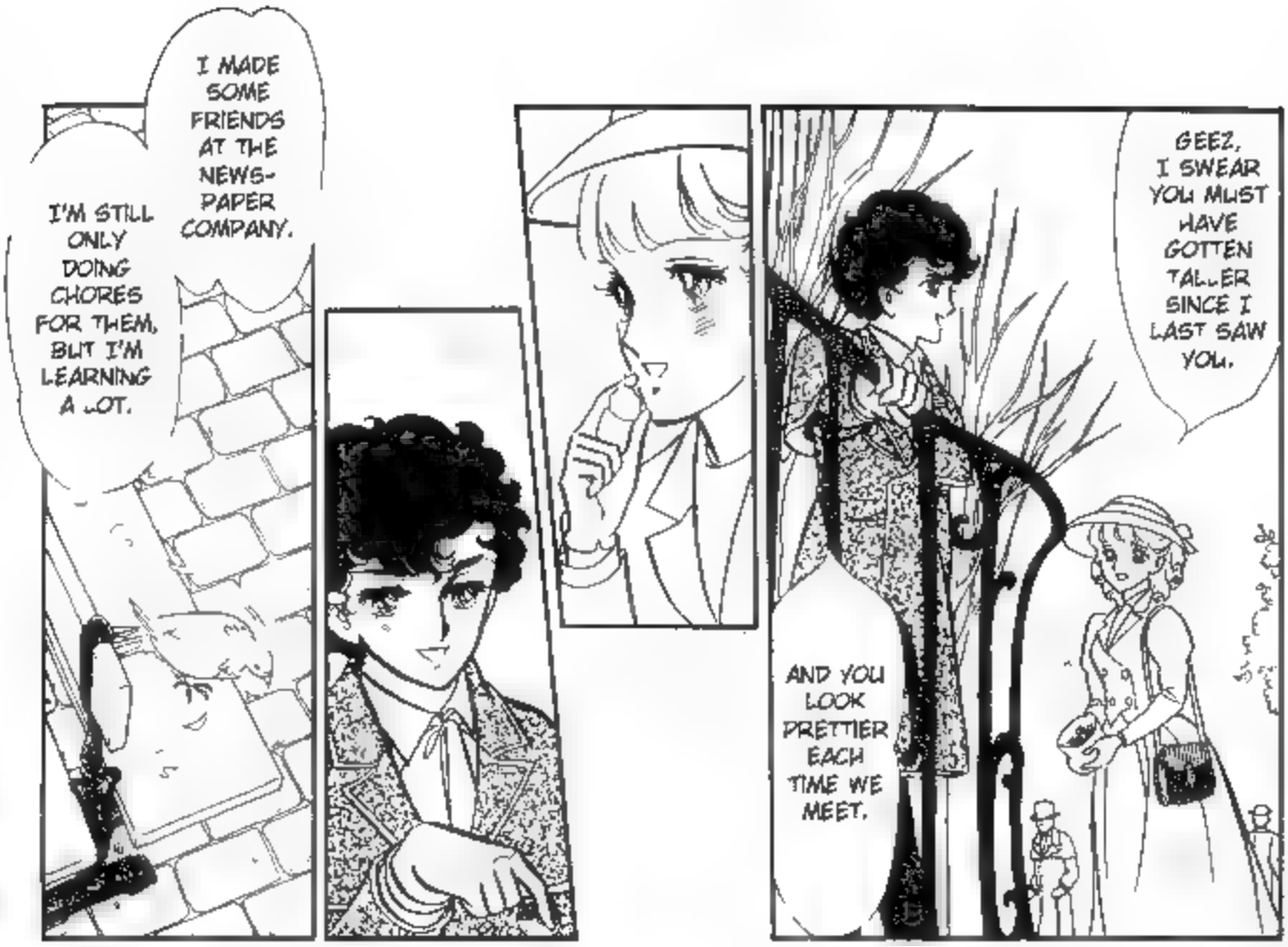
REST YOUR HAND ON TOP OF IT ...
IT LOOKS LIKE AN EGG, RIGHT?
HERE, IF I DO THIS,
YES... KEEP IT UP.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SOUND.
TRY NOT TO MAKE YOUR FINGERS SO STIFF...
AS IF YOU'RE GENTLY HOLDING ONTO AN EGG.
AL-WAYS PLAY ...
THERE YOU GO! THAT FORM CREATES THE BEST SOUND.
THEN KEEP YOUR HAND LIKE THAT...
HAVE A SEAT. WE WERE PRACTICING THE PRELUDE, CORRECT?
ALRIGHT, ARE YOU NEXT, LADY JESSICA?
BYE BYE, DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE EGG!

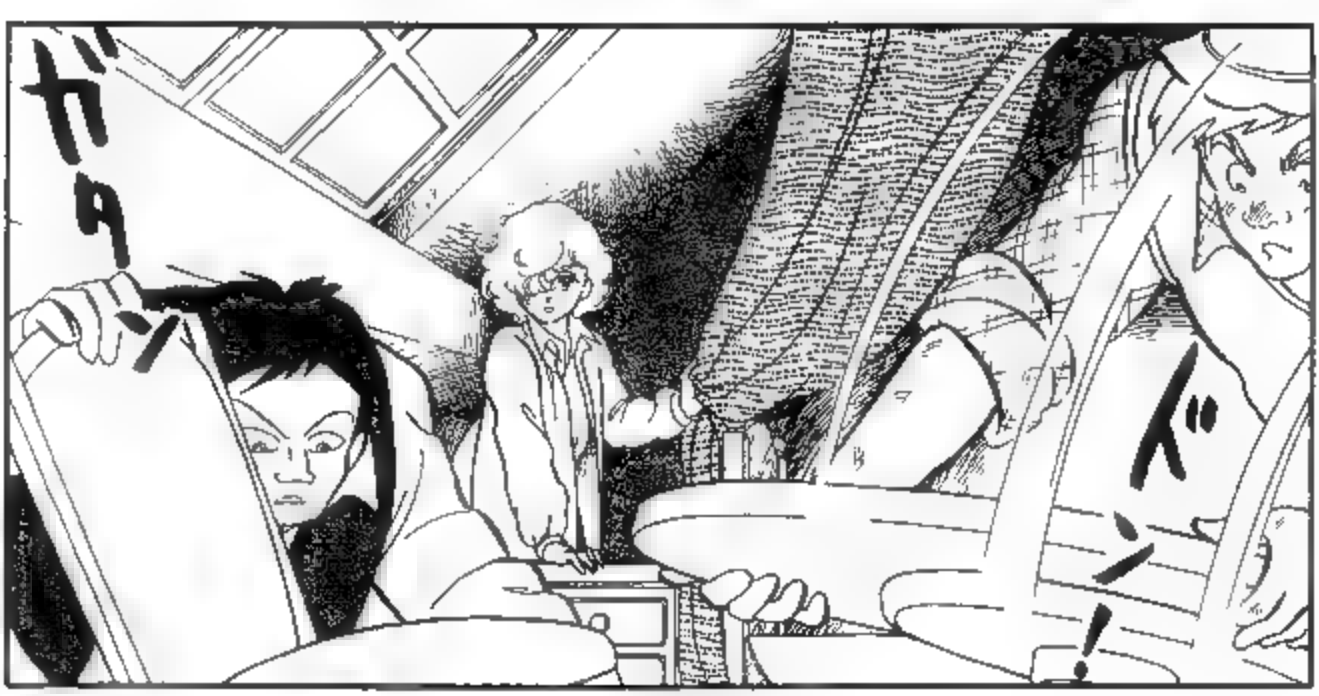
THE PIANO ISN'T AN ORGAN. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW HARD YOU HIT THE KEYS.
AS LONG AS YOU HIT THEM, IT'LL MAKE THE SOUND.
YOU'RE USING YOUR SHOULDERS TOO MUCH.
YOU'RE GETTING THERE! GOOD JOB!
YES! THAT'S YOUR FORTE!
SO, GET RID OF THE FORCE FROM YOUR SHOULDERS AND JUST BOUNCE YOUR ARMS ON THE KEYS.
MA'AM, YOU'RE WAITING ON HIM, TOO?
HOW UNLIKE YOU.
SUCH DARK, HONEST EYES...
HE'S A GREAT TEACHER, ISN'T HE?
....AFTER MY LITTLE SISTER SAW THAT YOUNG ASSISTANT, SHE BEGAN PRACTICING TWICE AS MUCH!

I'M DEEPLY SORRY, BUT OUR WAITING ROOM IS QUITE SMALL, SO IF YOUR LESSONS ARE OVER, I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE.
OH? HE PUT HIS HANDS ON MY SHOULDERS.
AND HE PRAISED ME!
HE TOUCHED ME WITH HIS FINGERS!
KYAA!
WHAT A PAIN!!
JUST BEING A CHAPERONE TO A STUDENT DOESN'T PROVIDE A DEEP ENOUGH CONNECTION WITH HIM.
GEE, I WONDER IF I SHOULD TAKE UP THE PIANO.
WHAT'S WITH HER!
THAT MARELLI'S JUST THE DAUGHTER OF THE PROFESSOR ...
THANK YOU, MISS MARELLI.
HERE IS YOUR TEA. IT'S TIME FOR YOUR BREAK, MONSIEUR MAREH.

WHAT NOISY WOMEN.
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT'S WHAT YOU'D DO WHEN A MAN AND A WOMAN ARE ALONE IN A ROOM TOGETHER.
THAT'S PROOF THAT THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON BETWEEN THEM.
BUT, YOU SEE HOW SERGE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN AFTER MARELLI ENTERED?
MY MY, TEA ALREADY? THE BATTLE'S ONLY HALF-WAY DONE.
HERE YOU GO, PROFE-SSOR!
THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF STUDENTS RECENTLY WHO ALL HAVE THEIR EYES ON YOU.
OH, NOT AT ALL...
I'M JUST HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO!
STILL, YOU'RE DOING WELL, SERGE
WHY COULDN'T YOU COME IN A BIT LATER? YOU'RE CLUELESS!
FATHER!

OH FATHER, YOU'RE HORRIBLE!
HUH ...?
BEFORE YOU, SHE'D BE OUT OF HERE BY NOON, NEVER TO RETURN...
THIS INCLUDES MY OWN DAUGHTER AS WELL.

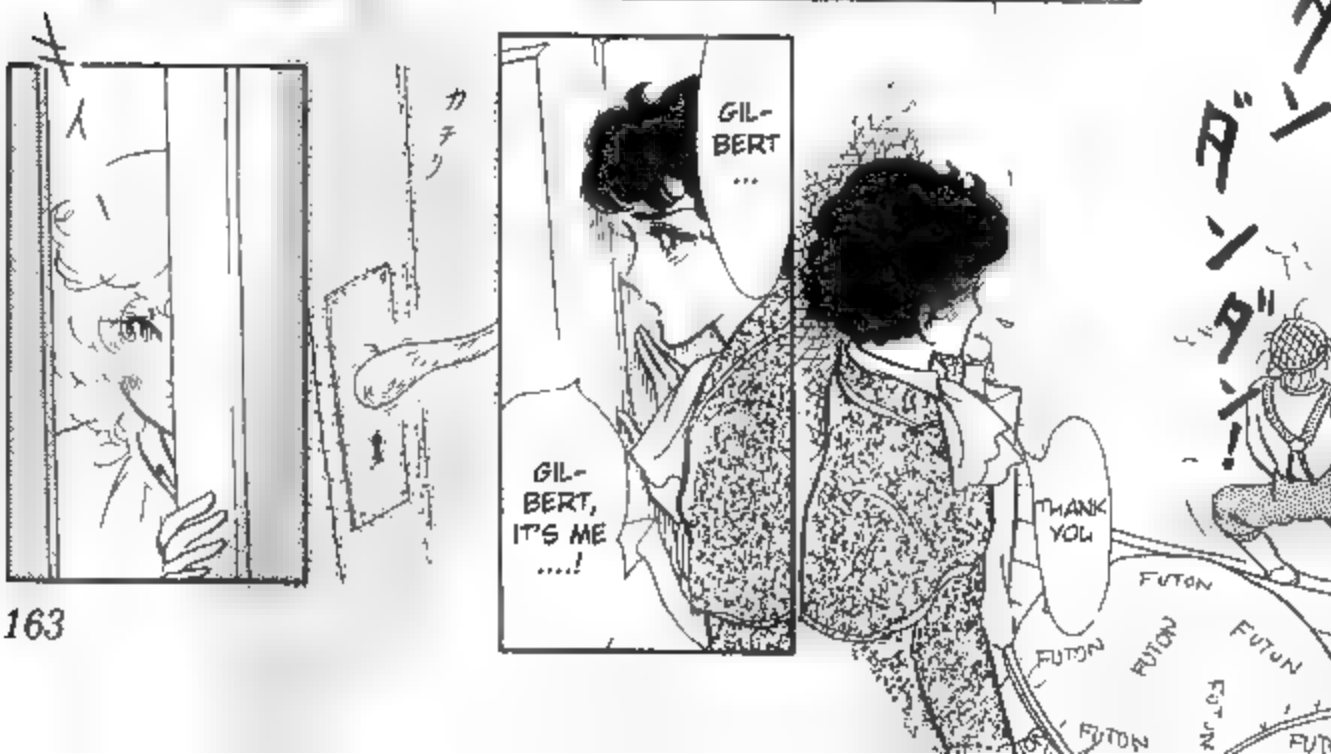

I'M STILL ONLY DOING CHORES FOR THEM, BUT I'M LEARNING A LOT.
I MADE SOME FRIENDS AT THE NEWS-PAPER COMPANY.
GEEZ, I SWEAR YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN TALLER SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
AND YOU LOOK PRETTIER EACH TIME WE MEET.


ガタ
ドン!

HEY, NOW.. WE'RE GONNA HAVE A LOT OF TROUBLE HERE IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT THIS!
THERE'S NO POINT.
HE DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT IN THE HEAD.
JUST SIGN HERE ...
SO THAT'S ONE TABLE AND TWO CHAIRS.
THANK YOU FOR THE WORK!
DIDN'T RESPOND WHEN WE KNOCKED
WE HAD TO HAVE THE LANDLORD USE HIS OWN SKELETON KEY TO GET IN.
SHOULD WE HAVE THE LANDLORD SIGN INSTEAD?
HE'S JUST BEEN SITTING SILENTLY ON THE BED.
EACH TIME NO ONE'S BEEN HOME. IT'S HARD LUGGING THIS THING UP THE STAIRS, BEING AS OLD AS I AM.
I CAME BY HERE THREE TIMES ALREADY.
TELL IT TO SOMEONE WHO CARES !!
WHAT'S GOING ON! DAMN FUTON WORKERS! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
IS THIS YOUR ORDER?
ボスッ!!
HUP!
FUTON

ドンドン
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! DO YOU KNOW WHAT FLOOR THIS IS? THE SIXTH FLOOR! SIXTH!!
ガチャ
WHY, YOU.... HOLD ON, NOW!
...OH!
HUH?
THE CUSTOMER IS IN THERE. HE'S JUST BEEN PRETENDING TO BE OUT.
FUTON

JUST SIGN THIS PAPER FOR ME NOW!
I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOU!
I WAS THE ONE THAT ORDERED THE FUTON.
UM... IS SOMETHING WRONG?


カチリ
GIL-BERT...
GIL-BERT, IT'S ME....!
THANK YOU
ダンダンダン!
FUTON

YOU'RE NOT REALLY TALKING TO THEM....
YOU JUST SIGN AND SAY THANK YOU, AND THEY'LL LEAVE...
...WHY AREN'T YOU ANSWERING THE DOOR FOR THEM? THEY JUST CAME TO DELIVER MY ORDERS.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ANYONE.
...I HATE PEOPLE.
BUT WE FINALLY GOT A TABLE
WE DON'T WANT TO SPILL WINE ON THE NEW SHEETS.
I'M FINE WHERE I AM.
I GOT SOME WINE FROM MR. DORESTE.
ANYWAY. COME OVER HERE, LET'S EAT.
GILBERT!
FINE
I WON'T EAT, THEN.

... NOW, IS THIS OK?
FINE, THEN!
GEEZ, YOU SURE ARE STUBBORN!
GILBERT ...!
THE DAY BEFORE WAS WALLPAPER ....
YESTERDAY WAS THE CURTAINS.
I JUST WANT TO BE WITH YOU....
I... DON'T NEED ANYTHING.
BUT NOW YOU COME HOME LATER ...
THERE ARE MORE THINGS IN THIS ROOM.
THE WINE ...!
LEAVE IT ALONE!

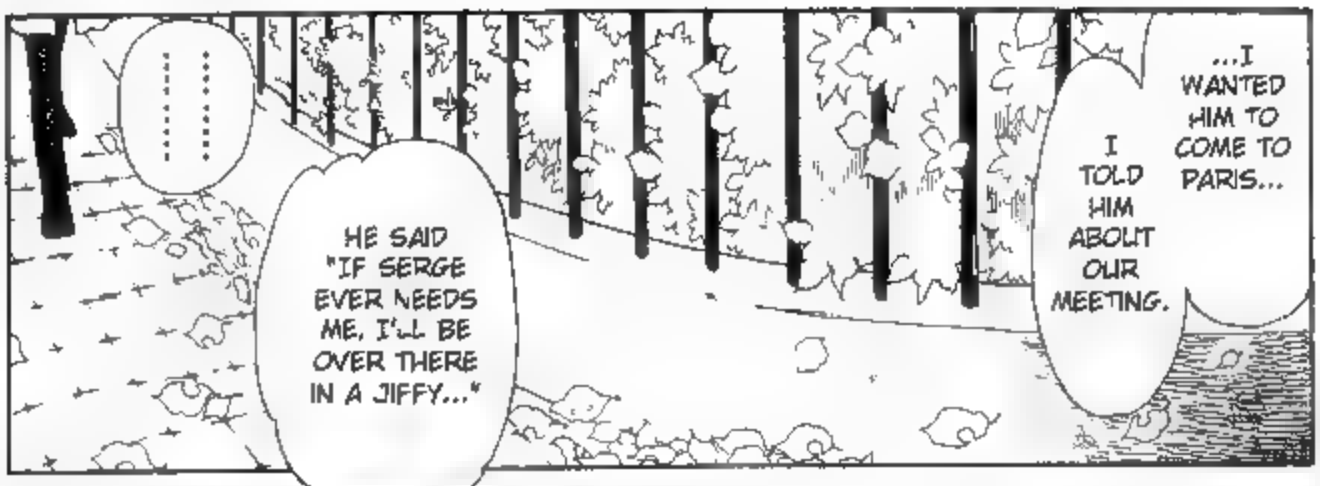
I DON'T WANT TO BE APART FROM YOU!
NO, WE HAVE TO EAT
.. LOOK HOW THIN YOU'RE GET-TING.
I DON'T WANT TO BE APART FROM YOU FOR A SE-COND
I WANT TO STAY LIKE THIS. UNTIL MOR-NING.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
LET'S EAT, NOW.. OK, GILBERT?
I'LL ALWAYS COME BACK HOME TO YOU.
WELL, I'M HERE, AREN'T I.. ? I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE.
SO ...
IF YOU'RE NOT HEALTHY,
I'LL BE TOO WORRIED TO WORK, OK?
... THAT'S WHAT I WANT.
TO NOT MOVE, NOT EAT
JUST THE TWO OF US.
FROZEN IN TIME, LEFT ALONE ..
I WANT IT THAT WAY...
AND HALF AN APPLE . TRY TO EAT AT LEAST THIS MUCH.
TWO SLICES OF BREAD, TWO PIECES OF HAM, AND SOME BOILED EGG ..

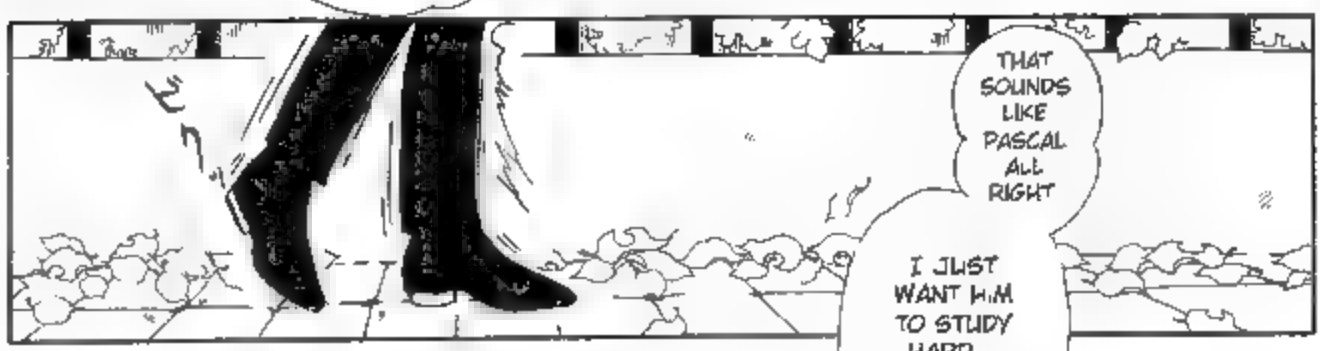
....OH NO! I OVER-SLEPT!
SER .... GE
DON'T GO.
I HAVE TO GO. I HAVE WORK. I'M ALREADY LATE.
... YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO.

I WANT TO STAY LIKE THIS.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU GET FIRED.
GILBERT. THIS ISN'T SCHOOL. ....IT'S MY JOB.
IF I DON'T GO, I'LL BE FIRED.
I'M SCARED, SERGE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE APART FROM YOU...
GIL ...
HAVE SOME LUNCH OUT-SIDE.
... OK?
PLEASE, GILBERT. PULL YOUR-SELF TOGE-THER!
....YOU WON'T STAY BY MY SIDE.
YOU SHOULDN'T STAY INSIDE ALL DAY.
GO OUTSIDE AND TAKE A WALK.

SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT,
WITH GILBERT...
THE FARTHER AWAY YOU GO....
THE MORE YOU TRY TO LIVE IN REALITY,
WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING BY YOURSELF, IT'S LIKE YOU BECOME ONE WITH THE PIANO.
THAT WAS AMA-ZING, SERGE ...!
I CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE.
I WOULD LIKE IT... IF WE BECAME A LITTLE CLOSER.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
AND PLEASE, DON'T CALL ME "MISS."
DON'T LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN ...!
HAVE A SEAT ...! MISS MARE-LLI.

MM ...
GEEZ!
SERGE ...!
MISS MARELLI!
AFTERNOON CLASSES ARE STARTING SOON. I HAVE SOMEONE TO SEE UNTIL THEN, SO...
MY FATHER IS BEGINNING TO SEE YOU AS HIS SON...
REALLY!?
I'VE HEARD BACK FROM PASCAL. HE SAYS HE'S SKIPPING A GRADE AND NEXT YEAR WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE THE BACCALAUREATE.
TO THINK HE WAS ABOUT TO FAIL EARLIER!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
NOT AT ALL.


……
HE SAID "IF SERGE EVER NEEDS ME, I'LL BE OVER THERE IN A JIFFY..."
I TOLD HIM ABOUT OUR MEETING.
...I WANTED HIM TO COME TO PARIS...


ビクッ
THAT SOUNDS LIKE PASCAL ALL RIGHT

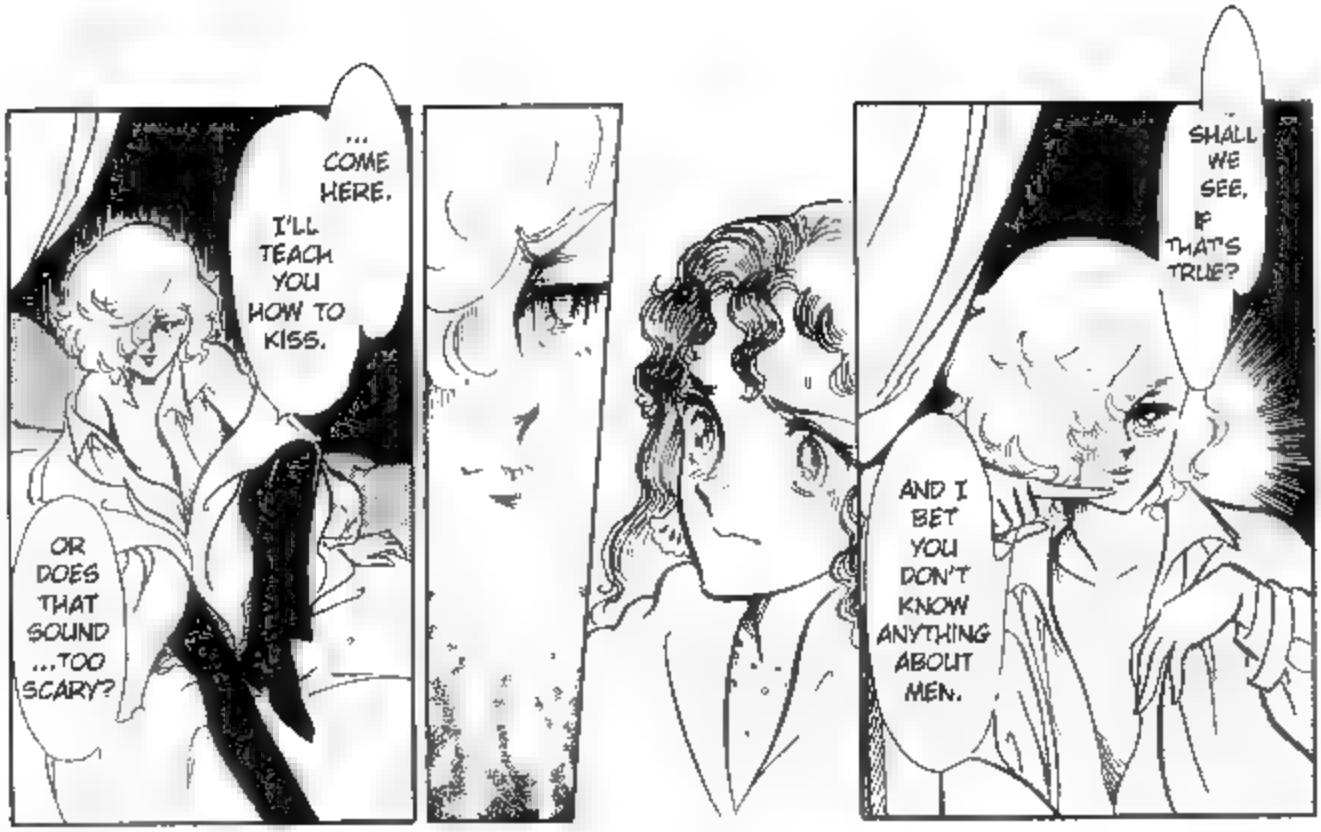
I JUST WANT HIM TO STUDY HARD... MAKE UP MY SHARE.

BUT, I WON'T LOSE TO MY BROTHER.
BECAUSE ....I LOVE YOU, SERGE.
I WAS VERY PROUD TO BE ABLE TO WRITE TO HIM AND SAY THAT I'VE FOUND YOU.
I CAN TELL THAT HE'S JEALOUS.
I KNOW HE WANTS TO COME OVER TERRIBLY.

HELLO THERE
....SPIT IT OUT ALREADY. YOU CAME HERE TO BRIBE YOUR WAY INTO HIS HEART OUTSIDE OF CLASS?
LEAVE THE GIFTS AND GO BACK HOME!
THAT MAKES FIVE PEOPLE NOW! SORRY, BUT HE IS NOT HOME.
DO YOU KNOW OF A PIANO TEACHER AROUND HERE NAMED SERGE MAREH?
EXCUSE ME, BUT...
AND... WELL... YOU SEE, TODAY IS....
WE ARE STUDENTS.

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE PRETTIER.
WHY IS THAT?
HEY! YOUR ROOMMATE IS QUITE THE LADIES MAN!
I'M HIS NEIGHBOR, SO I'LL BE SURE TO GIVE IT TO HIM DIRECTLY!
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL. YOU KNOW, SERGE HAS TOLD ME
HOW HE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
AHAHA HAHA HAHAHA!
WHY?
WHY, DO YOU THINK?
WAIT UP! THIS IS A PRESENT FOR YOUR PLACE!

ALL THESE HIGH CLASS GIRLS ARE CRUSHING ON SERGE.
IT WON'T BE LONG UNTIL HE MARRIES ONE OF THEM.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS ...WILL HE THROW YOU AWAY?
I KNOW YOU'RE JUST A COWARD THAT TRIES TO ACT TOUGH!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK. YOU'RE NOT SO SCARY.
WHO KNOWS
BUT, AT LEAST IT MEANS.
YOU'LL NEVER BE ONE OF THEM.
WHAT'S WITH YOU!
YOU PROBABLY AREN'T EVEN CAPABLE OF TOUCHING GIRLS!
... YOU LIKE SERGE, DON'T YOU?
HEH HEH



COME HERE ...

LET'S BEGIN ....

YOU'RE RAPIDLY IMPROVING.
YOU MUST'VE BEEN LEARNING THE PIANO FOR A LONG TIME.
SURELY YOU THOUGHT ABOUT GOING TO THE CONSERVATORY BEFORE, RIGHT?
...YES, BUT I'VE GIVEN THAT UP.
A LONG TIME AGO.
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW...
...SUCH A SHAME.
IF HE WASN'T SO VAGUE ABOUT HIS IDENTITY I'D LOVE TO SEE HIM ENTER THE CONSERVATORY...
FATHER.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ...ABOUT HIM?

I'D NEVER!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS MY DAUGHTER BABBLING ABOUT NOW... HANDING HER OFF TO SOMEONE WHOSE AGE AND IDENTITY ARE UNKNOWN...
BUT EVERYONE ELSE AGREES WITH ME.
IF I WERE TO GET MARRIED ...I THINK HE WOULD BE A GOOD CANDIDATE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DON'T WANT HIM TO BE TAKEN BY ANOTHER GIRL! I WANT TO OFFICIALLY PROPOSE!
PLEASE, FATHER!
WAH!
TH... THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING ....
GRRR
GRR...
DID HE HAVE A PROPER LUNCH...?
I WONDER HOW GILBERT IS DOING?
...I'M LATE.

...I LOVE YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST SOME STUCK-UP KID...BUT,
WITH... YOU.
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE.
GIL-BERT ...!?
HEY GIL ....
... YOU'RE ACTU-ALLY ...QUITE KIND...

GI ...
SERGE!
I WASN'T THINK-ING...
SORRY ... I'LL LEAVE NOW.

...
IT'S OK.
RIGHT ...?
SERGE IS JUST HOLDING BACK.
AS HE SHOULD.
DON'T YOU THINK?
HEH ...
GILBERT ...!?
HEH ...
HEH ... HEH
AHAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHA
AHA HAHA ...
WHAT A JOKE ....

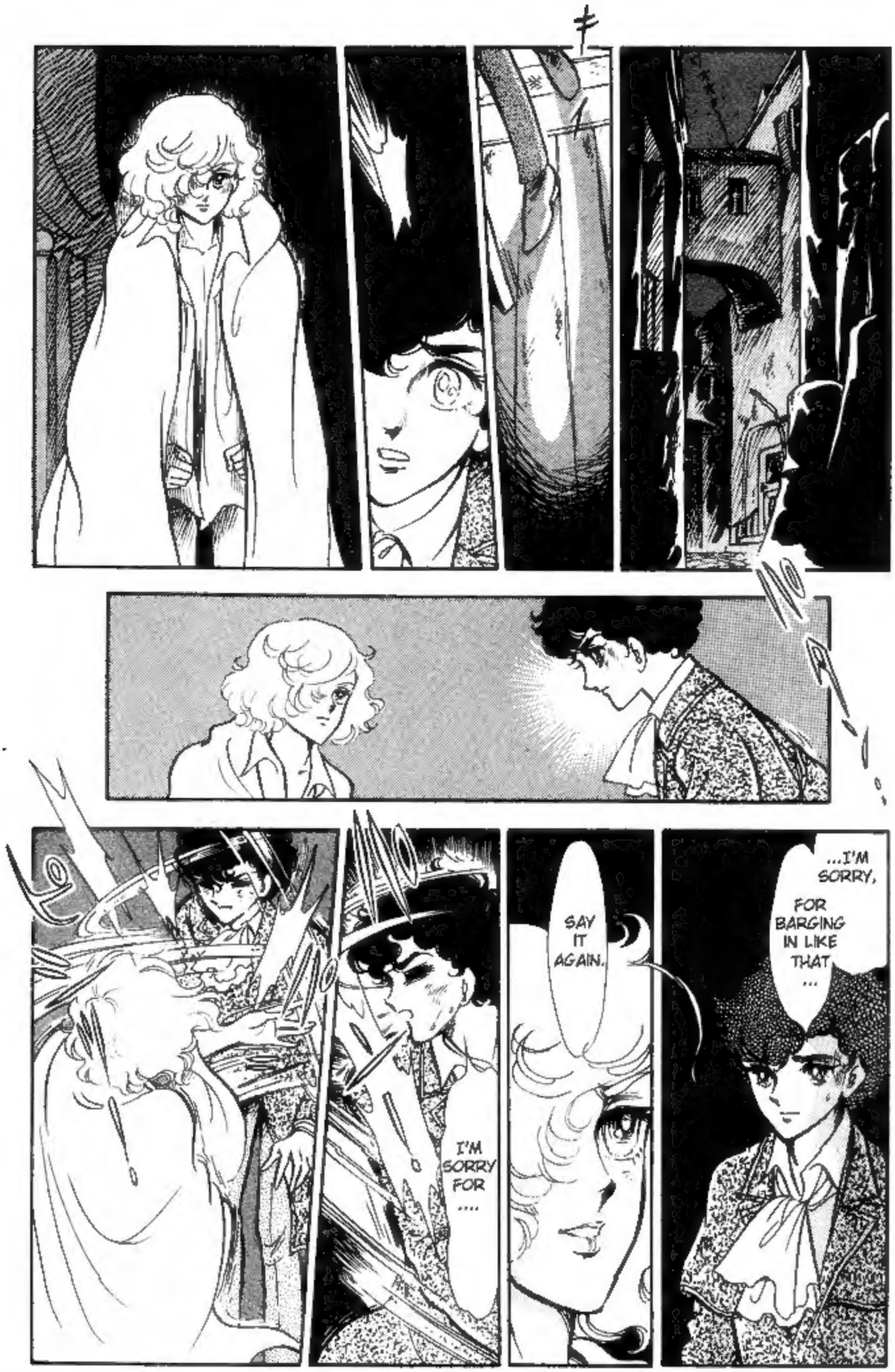
GILBERT IS A MAN AND CAMILLE IS A WOMAN...

THEN THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY AGAINST IT....

IF THAT'S HOW NATURE INTENDS IT,

WHY DOES IT MATTER IF GILBERT LOVES CAMILLE?

WHAT HAPPENED THERE WASN'T UNUSUAL


...I'M SORRY, FOR BARGING IN LIKE THAT ...
SAY IT AGAIN.
I'M SORRY FOR ....

〈風と木の詩〉⑯ *おわり *

プチフラワー　昭和57年第7月号より連載